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METROPOLITAN CAB LAW.

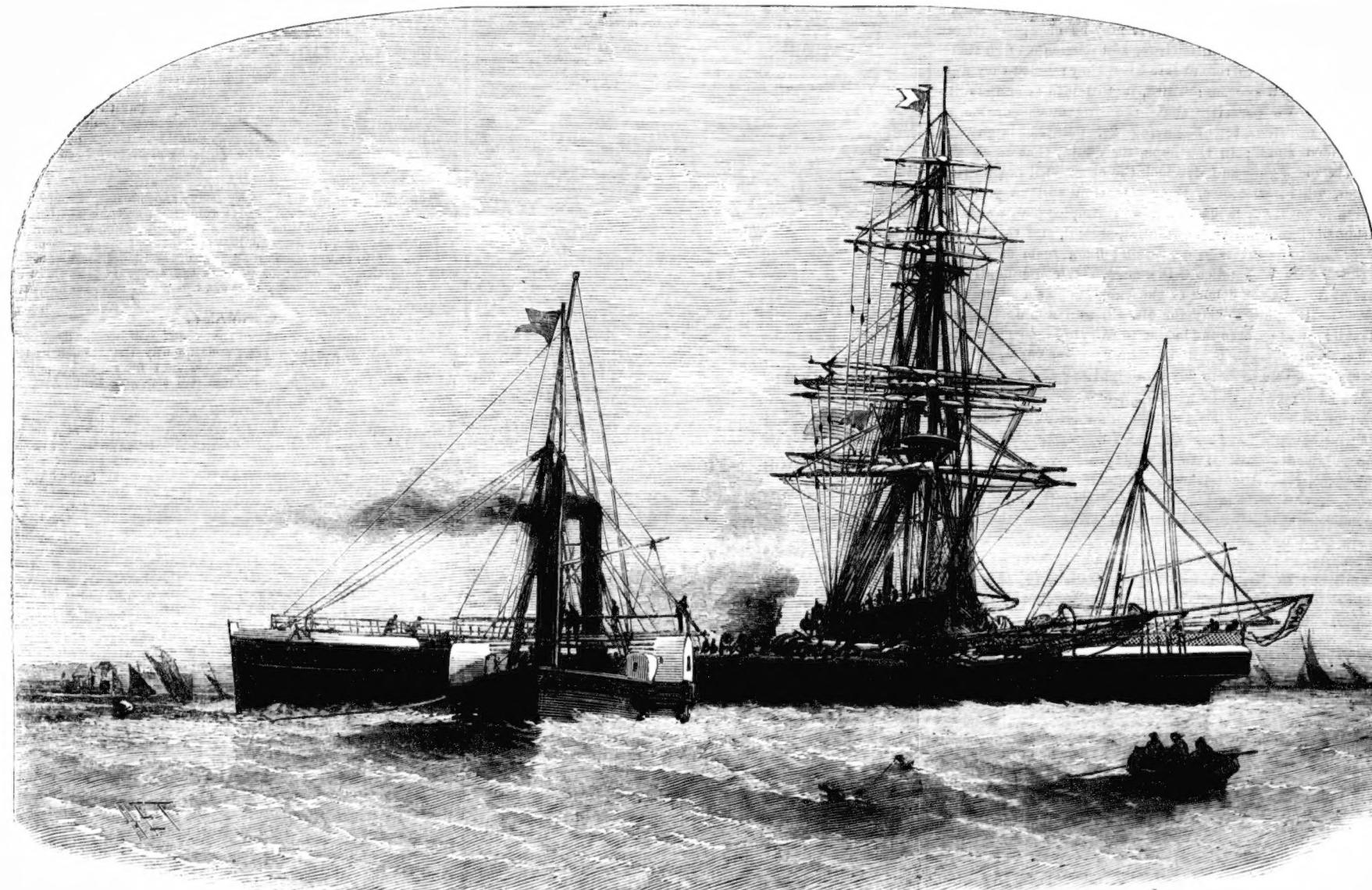
A GREAT vehicular revolution is supposed to have occurred in the capital of the British Empire in this year of grace eighteen hundred and seventy—a new golden age of locomotion to have been inaugurated. At least we are understood to believe so; and certainly we were taught to expect such an event. The denizens of the metropolis, permanent or occasional, were no longer to be afflicted with bad omnibuses and worse cabs. New, convenient, comfortable, clean—yea, even elegant—equipages were to take the places of the old, ill-constructed, foul, and nasty abominations with which intra-metropolitan travellers are only too familiar. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, on behalf of the nation, agreed to forego all but forty shillings of the nineteen or twenty pounds per annum of taxation to which owners of public vehicles were subject. He further gave them, in common with all consumers of corn, an additional boon in the shape of the repeal of that last rag of protection, the shilling per quarter duty on foreign grain. In exchange for these very substantial benefits, we were, as we have said, promised a complete revolution as touching vehicular means of locomotion in London. He must be a keen observer, however, who can detect any real indications of the advent of this happy era—except upon paper. New codes of “regulations” and new “hiring tickets” have been promulgated; but both are practically dead letters.

The change was to have taken place, according to Parliamentary enactment, on the first day of January; but, to suit the convenience of cabowners, the event was postponed to the 1st of February. The 1st of February is now past, and nothing seems to have been accomplished except to bring back something very like chaos into the cab world again. The vehicles are no better, the horses are noway improved,

and the drivers are still what cabdrivers have been for a period beyond which the memory of living man reacheth not. The proprietors of cabs and omnibuses have coolly pocketed the *quid* bestowed upon them by Mr. Lowe; but the public have still to wait for the corresponding *quo*. We must have patience till June now, it seems, before we can even look for any improvement in London cabs. That is the latest decision of the Home Office and Scotland-yard; but as these authorities, in this matter of cabs, are subject to great vacillation of opinion and frequent change of purpose, it is just possible—but very improbable—that they may be roused into a determination to enforce the law, and to insist upon the cabowners giving some equivalent for the benefits conferred upon them. This, however, is exceedingly improbable, for weakness seems to be the besetting sin of the Home Office in these days. “Weak, Worthy, Weeping Walpole” was guilty of it in his time; and Bending, Beneficent Bruce appears eager to emulate his deeds.

The Act of last Session placed the power of making rules to govern the cab traffic of London in Mr. Bruce's hands; and he has delegated the duty to the cabowners, contenting himself with simply doing their bidding. The result, as might have been expected, is confusion worse confounded, as regards hiring and fares; while, so far as advantage to the public is concerned, it is absolutely *nil*. We have simply gone back to the state of things that existed before the late Mr. Fitzroy undertook, and to a certain extent accomplished, the task of placing the cab traffic of the metropolis in something like order and system. Before Mr. Fitzroy's time cabmen might charge what fares they pleased, the only safeguard the public possessed against extortion being to make a bargain before starting—a process of “higgling the market” which was neither pleasant nor, in numerous

instances, practicable; and cabmen have once more had conceded to them the privilege of fixing their rates of charge, on these conditions:—1, That no fare shall be less than one shilling; and, 2, that the scale of charge per hour and per mile shall be painted on a metal flag displayed from the roof of all cabs plying for hire. The first condition cabmen will be sure to observe; the second they have already practically disregarded, for not one cab in six has yet “hung out its banner.” Then “crawlers”—that is, cabs creeping along the streets in search of fares—were to be abolished, and the public thoroughfares thereby cleared for traffic. But this, too, is disregarded, and “crawlers” are as rife as ever. As illustrative of this fact, we may mention that on Wednesday last we counted no less than eight empty cabs, creeping along in much the old “crawler” fashion, between Fetter-lane and Temple-bar, and that, too, notwithstanding the circumstance that Fleet-street was “up again” for the repair or relaying of gas or water pipes, and, consequently, only half the thoroughfare available for use. This rule against “crawlers,” however—which was in the form of an order that no fare should be recoverable unless the cab were hired from a regularly authorised stand—has already been modified; and, besides being absurd in itself, was not aimed at the said crawlers at all, but at the cabs privileged to ply for traffic in the railway stations, which, being private property, are not, of course, legal public stands. It was merely a device of the cabowners to attain, in an indirect way, the object attempted by the cab strike of last year. The police magistrates at once set their faces against it, and quite right too, for, if maintained, it would merely have resolved itself into a device for enabling mean rogues to ride in cabs for nothing; a bit of retribution, by-the-way,



COLLISION IN THE THAMES, OFF GRAVESEND, BETWEEN THE STEAM SHIP IONA AND THE BARQUE AGENORIA.



which some cabowners might be allowed to endure without pity—seeing that it was of their own invention—were it not for this, that cabmen, knowing themselves liable to be cheated, might also feel justified in attempting to cheat.

Then there is the lamp question still unsettled. Parliament has at least twice enacted—once some two years ago and again last session—that every cab out upon the streets at night shall carry a lamp. But lamps are still rare exceptions and "no lamps" the rule, the cabowners in this, as also in many other matters, setting Parliament and its enactments at defiance, and being aided and abetted in so doing by the Home Office and the magnates of Scotland-yard. The plea of expense urged against carrying lights on occasion of the famous "No-Lamps" strike is no longer valid—even if it had ever been more than a pretence; and, for the sake of public safety, the law in this respect should be rigidly enforced. But on this point, too, we suppose, Bending Bruce will yield to the demands of the cab interest, and let public safety take care of itself. The obligation to carry lamps, by-the-way, might well be extended to other vehicles besides cabs; omnibuses, private carriages, and, indeed, every vehicle that travels at more than a walking pace, should be compelled to carry lights; for in no other way can pedestrians in the crowded streets of London be protected at night from the danger of being knocked down, maimed, or killed.

Several more of Mr. Bruce's new regulations are either objectionable in principle or will be futile in operation. We do not particularly demur to the charge for parcels and children, though that, perhaps, may not unfrequently inflict hardships on cab-hirers to whom even pence are an object. But the privileges accorded to cabmen to go no further than six miles on one hiring, and to call a halt at the end of an hour's driving, will, we suspect, be fruitful in trouble. Supposing a fare—a female or a stranger, for instance—desires to reach a point over six miles from the starting-place, or the journey to which will occupy above an hour—and there is abundant scope for realising such a supposition—a cabman may take such a fare to within half a mile, say, of his or her destination, and then refuse to go further, except on condition of a fresh hiring, and the unlucky victim will have no choice save to submit to extortion, or be turned out into the mud and slush of a by-street in a London suburb—possibly in a region to which he is an utter stranger. Most cabmen, we should hope, would not take such an unfair advantage; but what all cabmen may, we may be quite sure that some will, do. Then, though Mr. Bruce's regulations provide that a cabdriver, at hiring, shall give his fare a ticket on which the rates per mile and per hour are printed—a rule, by-the-way, which, to our knowledge, is already disregarded—we see no condition that cabmen shall carry with them, and produce when required, a table of distances; so that, in this respect again, the public are at the mercy of the cabmen. Finally, the clumsy device of the flag, even if carried out, is liable to objection on several scores. First, it is of no use at night, for the figures upon it cannot then be read; next, it may be changed between the time of hiring and discharge, and passengers find themselves subject to one rate of fare when they fancied they were travelling upon another; third, it will lead to endless disputes, for we perceive that the ingenious device is already resorted to of having 2s. painted large and 6d. added small; in the hope, no doubt, that fares will see the one figure and overlook the other—till paying time comes, when, of course, their attention will be promptly called to both. A much better and simpler plan would be either to classify all cabs into first, second, and third class, according to quality and condition; fix a scale of charges for each class, and indicate the class, and consequently the rate of fare, by the colour of the cab—such as a white body for class 1, a yellow body for class 2, and a blue body for class 3; or to enforce the law as to carrying lamps and have the scale of charges painted distinctly upon them, so as to be easily legible by both day and night.

We have no wish to be hard upon cab owners and drivers, who ought to have fairplay like other citizens. But substantial benefits have recently been conferred upon them; the public are entitled to advantages in return; and experience proves that means of protection for the hirers of cabs, other than the honesty and straightforwardness of cabmen, are indispensable: which protection the Home Secretary's new regulations do not afford. Lovers laugh at locksmiths; and cabmen will laugh at lawmakers—when permitted: as Mr. Bruce will speedily discover, if he continues to play the rôle of "Reed-that-Bends" much longer.

COLLISION OFF GRAVESEND.

On the morning of the 28th ult., between eight and nine o'clock, the Edinburgh and Leith iron screw-steamer Iona, 600 tons register, came into collision in the Thames with the Agenoria, an outward-bound American ship. The Iona was coming up the river to the southward of mid-channel, her proper course. As she approached Gravesend the Agenoria was observed to be coming down the river in tow of a steam-tug. There seemed to be plenty of room for both to pass, but when within a short distance the Agenoria appeared to alter her course, and before there was time even for the captain of the Iona to give orders to stop the engines, the two vessels came into collision, the Agenoria striking the Iona on the starboard quarter, and carrying away bulwarks, boats' davits, and the greater part of the rigging. Fortunately most of the passengers on deck were on the fore part of the vessel, but one young man, named William Lennox, was struck down by the mainmast when it fell, and was killed on the spot. The greatest alarm prevailed on board the steamer, it being believed that she would go down, but it was ultimately discovered that she was not damaged below the water

line. She was eventually towed up the river by two steamers to Hermitage Dock, where she landed her passengers. The Agenoria also sustained considerable damage, and had to put back to Victoria Docks. At the inquest on the body of Mr. Lennox, on Monday, it was stated that the deceased was a passenger on board the Iona, and that he was killed on the spot by the gaff of the mainmast falling on him. Neil Stewart, a seaman, and also a passenger on board the Iona, said he knew the deceased. On the steamer arriving off Gravesend the way of the vessel was checked in order to take the pilot on board. He saw the barque being towed across the steamer's bows; and both the captain and mate of the Iona called to the barque to starboard. She was still towed on, and paid no attention to the call. The tug came across the steamer's bow and the barque on her starboard bow, and struck the steamer just abaft the fore rigging and carried away the boats, bridge, funnel, rigging, and mainmast, and doing other damage. Witness was on the forecastle, and the deceased was near him, when the captain called out and the alarm was given. Craigie Scott, a seaman on board the Iona, said when the barque struck the steamer the deceased came running towards the poop, and when about half way on the poop the gaff fell and struck him on the side of the head and killed him. The barque's bowprit caught the rigging and stays and brought the mast down. Colin Waterson, mate of the Iona, deposed that he saw the barque being towed down. The tug ported her helm first, and then the barque, and that was a wrong thing for them to do. He called out for them to starboard the helm, but no attention was paid to the cry. The tug let go the tow-rope, and the barque came into the steamer's fore rigging. The tug and the barque would never have cleared them the way they were going. The Coroner said that it would be necessary to have the master and helmsman of the tug in attendance, as the case might involve a charge of manslaughter; and the inquiry was consequently adjourned.

THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.—During the recess the interior of the new palace at Westminster has been subjected to some changes, which, however, are not of much structural importance. In the central hall the panels of the groined roof have been filled with mosaics by Salviati, each panel displaying an architectural device on a gold ground; the ribs also have received rich decorations. The lantern has been opened and glazed, and more light and air will thus be obtained. The whole of the stonework has been scraped and restored to its natural whiteness, and then washed with a colourless composition, which gives it a slight glaze. The corridor to the river front, and the hall beyond, have been made lighter and easier of access, by increasing the width of the archways and removing some of the too-deeply stained glass. Here and elsewhere windows with lighter tracery have been substituted for those which seemed chiefly meant to exclude the light. At the entrance to the Commons' lobby the massive doors and heavy stone arch have been removed, and in their place a glazed oak screen, with appropriate doors, has been erected. The space between the top of the screen and the pointed arch above appears to be open, but is really filled with plate glass in one large sheet, which admits much light into the lobby. The same alterations have been made in the Peers' lobby. The decay of the ornamental stonework outside the building is increasing. In the recent gales pieces of heavy carving weighing many pounds became detached, and shivered into little pieces in the courtyards.

FATAL ICE ACCIDENTS.—On Sunday afternoon an accident of an appalling character occurred at Rishton Reservoir, about two miles from Blackburn. The reservoir is one of large circumference, and is a place of great resort during the skating season. On Sunday the crowd of skaters and others on the water was enormous, and, although the ice was rough, hundreds ventured upon it. Many of the skaters were factory operatives, and they amused themselves by dragging after them a number of girls. Hundreds also, not deeming the ice safe in the centre, remained on the bank. During the afternoon, however, one or two men on skates, dragging after them a number of women, forming a chain of nine or ten persons, ventured near the centre; the ice oscillated, gave way, and the whole were thrown into the water. The accident caused the greatest excitement among those on the spot; and, as it could be seen by all on the banks, and by most on the ice, the terror and dismay were widespread. A number of men threw off their jackets, and by this means formed a rope, which they cast out to the unfortunate persons. A long time was spent in this attempt at rescue, and at length six persons were brought safely out of the water; but, although every effort was made, the others perished.—Between two and three o'clock last Saturday afternoon David Webster Watt, eight years of age, while skating on a dam at the Culter Paperworks, seven miles from Aberdeen, fell through the ice. Some children who were amusing themselves beside the dam gave the alarm, and George Watt, the boy's father, rushed on the ice, which broke under him, and he sank in water 6 ft. or 7 ft. deep. A number of people speedily gathered, and everything was tried to rescue the father and son, but the efforts were unavailing. A boat had to be procured, and the bodies were only recovered three quarters of an hour after the accident.

DR. DÖLLINGER.—Dr. Döllinger has declined the freedom of the city of Munich, which had been decreed to him by the municipal authorities. He writes as follows:—"I see from the papers that the municipal council of Munich has decided by a majority to bestow upon me the freedom of the city. Under different circumstances a like distinction would have been as honourable, in my eyes, as it would have been welcome to me. Since, however, this resolution has been caused by a very special occasion—namely, an expression of opinion on my part—it appears to me a peremptory duty to decline the honour intended for me. I published the article in question because I thought myself called upon to do so as a public teacher, as senior of the theological professors of Germany, in this anxious time—a really alarming situation. I have done it in the reassuring consciousness of being in accordance, as to the real essence of the question, with the great majority of the German Bishops, one of whom also is my own revered pastor, and in the pressing desire of publicly confessing that which I once received as teacher of the Church, that which I have taught as such for forty-seven years, now at the evening of my life, in a moment when confusion or mutilation seems to threaten that teaching; finally—why should I not say it?—in the hope that my words, my pointing out the errors of a document guaranteed by 400 signatures, may even there, where now the whole future of the Church is to be decided, find perhaps some attention before the die is cast. All this, however, is only a purely internal question of the Church, and I dare not by any means lend my hand, as far as depends upon me, to a removal of this thoroughly religious question from its natural position, which is strictly within the Church, into field totally foreign to it." The Catholic University of Breslau has, in the person of some of its most prominent members, sent a letter of congratulation to Professor Döllinger, begging him to accept "this expression of their unlimited admiration and gratitude for his enlightened and manly deed." "We hope," they add, "from such deeds a happy change for the benefit of the Catholic Church, whose right and power is acknowledged in the historical continuity. We stand with our conviction and views firmly on your side, and shall not waver. As surely as truth will be victorious in the end, so will also the gratitude and acknowledgment of Christian posterity not fail you."

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION.—On Thursday a meeting of this institution was held at its house, John-street, Adelphi—Thomas Chapman, Esq., F.R.S., V.P., in the chair. Richard Lewis, Esq., the secretary, having read the minutes of the previous meeting, the silver medal of the society and a copy of the vote inscribed on vellum were voted to its local honorary secretary at Abersoch, North Wales, the Rev. O. H. Williams, £42 9s. to the crew of that life-boat, in acknowledgment of their gallant services in putting off in the boat on the 14th and 15th ult., and, after much difficulty, saving thirteen of the crew of the ship Kenilworth, of Liverpool, which was wrecked on St. Patrick's Causeway, in Cardigan Bay, during a north-west gale and in a heavy sea. £36 were also granted to the crew of the Barmouth life-boat for going off on the 14th ult., to the same wreck and saving eight of the crew; £22 7s. were also voted to the crews of the Porthdinllaen, Padstow, and Budnon Ness life-boats, for bringing ashore three men from the schooner Granont, of Carnarvon, ten persons from the wrecked barque Suez, and three men from the schooner John Howard of Goole. The Ramsgate life-boat Bradford, in conjunction with the harbour steam-tug Aid, had saved two men from the fishing-smack Whiff, of that port, which struck on the Quern Shoal; and the Theddlethorpe life-boat had brought safely ashore the crew, numbering fifteen persons, of a foreign vessel. Rewards amounting to £170 were also granted to the crews of seventeen other life-boats of the society for services during the storms of the past month. Rewards were also granted to the crews of shore-boats for saving life from different wrecks. The silver medal of the institution, a copy of its vote inscribed on vellum, and £5 were also voted to Mr. Edward Amis, coxswain of the Palling life-boat, on his retirement from that office, which he had held many years. He had assisted in the boat to save a large number of lives from different wrecks. Payments amounting to £2500 were ordered to be made on various life-boat establishments. The Horse Guards had sanctioned the medal of the institution, presented to officers of the Army, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers, being worn in uniform on the right breast, a record of the recipients being kept at head-quarters. A new life-boat and transporting-carriage had recently been forwarded to Whitby. It was decided to station a large sailing life-boat at Palling, on the coast of Norfolk. Reports were read from the inspector and the assistant inspector of life-boats on their recent visits to different life-boat stations. The proceedings then terminated.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

There are renewed rumours of intended changes in the Ministry, the statement being that M. Ollivier wishes to get rid of M. Buffet, Minister of Finance, and of M. Louvet, Minister of Commerce, and to substitute for them M. Magne and M. Forcade de la Roquette. The Ministerial journals, however, deny that any changes are contemplated, which, were the old system still in existence, might, perhaps, be accepted as conclusive proof that the current rumours were well founded.

M. Ollivier has dismissed a number of prefects who had made themselves too conspicuous as Government agents in the elections last year. Further dismissals on like grounds are expected to follow.

In the Legislative Body on Monday there was a short but important debate respecting the Ministerial decrees restricting the temporary admission of iron and cotton tissues. A motion against the decrees was made by M. Dupuy de Lôme, and replied to by the Minister of Finance, who strongly defended the decrees. The motion was rejected, by the House passing to the simple order of the day, by 191 votes against 6. On Wednesday the Chamber commenced the discussion on the new standing orders. M. Grevy moved an amendment to give the Legislative Body the right of summoning the army to its defence. He said his amendment was calculated to prevent the Sovereign's abuse of the right of dissolution; and he maintained that the representatives of the nation, being above all, should be placed in a position beyond possibility of attack. M. Segris replied on behalf of the Government. He said that liberty could only be established by being based on the mutual confidence of all parties, and he protested against any possibility of conflict between the different powers of the State. The situation was now totally changed, but M. Grevy's proposals would lead it back to what it was in 1848. The adoption of M. Grevy's motion would be a violation of the Constitution. M. Segris cited, in support of his arguments, the articles of the Constitution of 1848 and 1852, and, in concluding his speech, said, "The amendment is a sign of mistrust. This thought is not ours; we wish to establish liberty, with the Empire, not against it." M. Jules Favre then rose and defended what he termed the rights of the Chamber, declaring that, under the present régime, the Legislative Body was at the discretion of one man. He alluded to the Second of December, when a Ministry was in office, and when the Minister of War left the House to arm the Praetorians against the Assembly and give over the reins of power to a usurper. "We are ready," added M. Jules Favre, "to make concessions of our opinions when necessary, but not to sacrifice our principles." On a division, M. Grevy's amendment was rejected by 217 votes against 43.

The *Marseillaise* is in difficulties of a pecuniary nature. M. Rochefort has just been sued before the Civil Tribunal of the Seine for 16,000f. supplied to him by Simon and Co., farmers of advertisements, who opened him a credit of 100,000f. to enable him to found the paper. They alleged that part of their loan to him was otherwise employed than had been agreed upon; and, in the midst of the discussion thus raised, the *Marseillaise* took up another contractor for its advertisements. Simon and Co. demand repayment of the money advanced and 50,000f. damages, and they have attached the proceeds of the journal and M. Rochefort's salary as deputy. He allowed judgment to go by default, and the tribunal has declared the attachment valid.

In the little town of Rambouillet, thirty miles from Paris, there may yet be seen posted on the walls the proclamation of the Mayor against M. Maurice Richard, now his Excellency the Minister of Fine Arts, but then an independent candidate, who presumed not only to oppose, but to beat, M. Ernest Baroche, the son of the senator and late Minister. The Mayor then, inspired by M. Rouher and his friends, said:—"They who blame every act of the Emperor's Government—they who, if deputies, would vote against it—they who, by necessary inference, want to see it overthrown—will vote for M. Maurice Richard. I see the revolution, and nothing else, as the result of his election. Therefore, let all loyal citizens who wish to show their affection and sympathy to the Emperor vote for Ernest Baroche."

ROME.

A letter from Rome in the *Paris Débats* says that the Pope is very anxious for the proceedings of the Council to terminate as soon as possible. "Some people think," adds the writer, "that the cause of this is the expense occasioned by maintaining so a large number of Bishops. I do not believe that such is the real motive; for the Holy Father has received from the universal episcopacy ten times more money than he would spend for that purpose during a year's stay of the Bishops; but the uncertainty he is in with regard to the definition of his favourite dogma makes him desirous of obtaining a speedy solution. Under no circumstances is it considered that the Council will be prolonged beyond next June."

SPAIN.

Spain has been visited by very heavy snowstorms, which interrupted communication with foreign countries; and the weather has been so bad at Madrid that a review of troops, which was fixed for Tuesday, had been postponed. It is stated that the elections in the Asturias are to be annulled on account of the illegal conduct of the civil authorities, in order to prevent the election of the Duke de Montpensier. The difficulty between Spain and Morocco has been adjusted.

GERMANY.

It is semi-officially announced that the North-German Diet will be convoked for the 14th inst.; consequently the Session of the Prussian Chambers will be prorogued for some time. It is also stated that the Customs Parliament will assemble about April 20 next.

AUSTRIA.

During the sitting of the Reichsrath, on the 26th ult., Baron Tinti, one of the members of the German party, and author of the answer to the Speech from the Throne, expressed himself rather strongly concerning the Tyrolese deputies. He said:—"They are not Germans, they are not Austrians; they are Romans, and their Emperor is the Pope." The offended deputies demanded that the speaker should be called to order, but their request was refused by the Vice-President, and on the 27th six of them (Giovanelli, Greuter, Brader, Wiessler, Jager, and Plauer) formally left the Reichsrath. Before leaving, Giovanelli protested that he and his colleagues must quit the assembly, not only on account of the offence given to themselves, but also for that given to the nationality which they represented. The event has produced a most unpleasant effect in the country, notwithstanding that three deputies of the Italian part of the Tyrol did not join the German Tyrolese. This will now make with Bohemia two considerable parts of the empire without deputies in the Reichsrath; and the Polish press insists upon the Galician deputies leaving the assembly also if none of Grocholski's amendments to the Address are accepted. The absurd Ultramontanism of the Tyrolese is well known, but it was hardly advisable to excite it just now. If the German party goes on in this way, it is not unlikely that it will have all the Reichsrath to itself.

EGYPT.

Friendly explanations have passed between Cairo and Constantinople. By new arrangements it is intended that there shall be in future only 15,000 troops maintained in Egypt. The Khedive opened the Chamber with a short discourse, in which he avoided touching upon foreign politics, but recommended internal improvements.

THE UNITED STATES.

The Senate, on Tuesday, adopted a resolution instructing the Committee on Foreign Affairs to consider the expediency of recommending the President to tender American mediation between

Canada and the people of Winnipeg, with the view to adjust pending difficulties.

The House of Representatives, by 122 against 41 votes, has rejected a resolution declaring the Five-Twenties payable in currency and condemning the purchase of bonds at above par.

The House has passed a bill abolishing the franking privilege.

The members elected by Virginia have been admitted to their seats in the Senate.

A ball in honour of Prince Arthur was given at the Masonic Temple, Washington, on the 27th ult. It was a very brilliant affair, and was attended by President Grant and the Cabinet, the majority of the Diplomatic Body, and a large number of members of Congress and officers of the army and navy.

THE RED RIVER.

Telegrams have been received from Fort Garry, announcing that Kiel, the commander of the Red River insurgents, has been superseded (one account states that he has been made a prisoner), and Mactavish, the old Governor, has been restored. It is further stated that a commission is to be sent to treat with the Canadian Government for the transfer of the territory to the Dominion. During a terrible storm which took place in the district on the 16th ult. seven men are said to have been frozen to death.

INDIA.

The India papers contain long accounts of the investiture of the Duke of Edinburgh as Grand Commander of the Star of India, at Calcutta, on Dec. 30. The ceremony is described as very splendid—the most splendid India has ever beheld. Nothing in modern times, the Calcutta papers declare, could be compared with the grandeur and brilliancy of the spectacle. For a suitable parallel it would be necessary to go back several centuries, and recall the gorgeous scenes of the Field of the Cloth of Gold. "Napoleon's Partie des Rois, if more august, was," it is asserted, "certainly less resplendent and picturesque." The *Times of India* repeats these statements, and expresses its belief that they contain but little exaggeration. "Lord Mayo," it adds, "is just the man to see that an occasion of this kind is wanting in nothing that can add splendour to it; and never before has such an occasion for display presented itself."

A general order has been issued by the Commander-in-Chief of the Forces in India on the subject of beards. The order states that paragraph 358 of the Queen's Regulations will be considered as cancelled so far as concerns the British portion of the army serving in India, and that it will be optional with all ranks to wear beards or not; but when worn they must be kept of a moderate length, and cut periodically, at the same time as the hair.

THE FRENCH PRESS.

The following circular has been addressed by M. Emile Ollivier to the Procureurs-Général of the Imperial Courts of France:

PARIS, Jan. 23.

A complete régime governing the press implies three different orders of arrangement—those relating to competency, those relating to the conditions of publication, and to the police regulations of printing. The law which the Government has submitted to the Corps Législatif refers in no way to repression nor to conditions of publication; it only deals with the question of competency. It is, therefore, indispensable that we should indicate to you in what spirit you should apply those regulations which, having a character essentially political, ought, as long as they are in force, to be adapted to the fundamental principles which govern all our proceedings. It is only possible to give but general indications. You will have to determine for yourself in each particular case the course which shall appear to you the most prudent. In all publications you will distinguish between that part which is intended for publicity and that which is devoted to polemics. You will carefully watch the scrupulous observance of all the laws which tend to ensure the honesty and exactitude of that which obtains publicity. Thus you should not allow a fanciful account to be substituted for the official report of the Chambers, nor that an *acte d'accusation* should be published prematurely, nor that a journal should be exposed for sale until it has complied with the precedent material conditions, nor that a *communiqué* should be refused insertion, nor that by any irregularity there should be any infringement of the material regulations to which all publications are subjected. In such matters there is no question of the freedom of the human mind, nor of the rights of conscience, but simply of good faith and loyalty, of respect for the laws. In a case where publicity has appeared contrary to the public interest—for instance, when it deals with the internal deliberations of the Council of State—you will not allow the established prohibitions to be violated. In the part of the paper devoted to polemics you will distinguish the articles which are the expression of opinions, of theories, and of individual doctrines, or which contain criticisms of the acts of Ministers from articles which may assimilate to real acts. However reprehensible the first-mentioned may appear to you to be, whatever may be the form in which they may be produced—fitting or otherwise, moderate or impassioned, excessive or restrained—you need not regard them at all. You will not tolerate the last-mentioned unless they are in all respects conformable to the law. The reason for this distinction is obvious. There is no crime of opinion. That which is material can do nothing against that which is immaterial; error has no other judge—can have no other master or conqueror—than truth. To an opinion one can only oppose another opinion. To an *acte*, on the contrary, an act can be opposed to punish or prevent it, according as it is contrary to or in conformity with the precepts of justice and the exigencies of social order. Consequently, you will search out every newspaper article which, containing an offence at common law, may be considered as an act committed rather than as an opinion expressed. In the first rank among articles having this character you will place those which contain outrages against the Emperor, apologies for crimes or legal offences, or direct provocations to disobedience of the laws, to commit crimes or offences, and particularly to seduce soldiers from their duty and the obedience which they owe to their chiefs. For the same reason you will give cordial assistance to citizens who may complain of defamation or attacks upon their private lives. Before the tribunals you will insist strongly that slanderers shall be visited not so much by imprisonment as by heavy pecuniary damages to those assailed. It is to be regretted that this mode of repression, the only efficacious means against slanderers, should not yet have been introduced into our judicial customs. You will apply to public meetings the same rules as to newspapers. You will vigilantly maintain the material regulations concerning the summoning and the holding of meetings, and you will not allow the revival of clubs in a disguised form. As to the speeches which are delivered, you will take no notice of them unless they involve an offence of the kind I have pointed out. You will attach more importance to the speeches which are destined for publicity in the newspapers than to those which will have no echo beyond the meeting at which they are spoken. In short, you will leave to the good sense of the public the police of moral order, and the task of checking the outpouring of ill-regulated ideas which have lately been put forth; but neither in the streets nor in the newspapers, nor in public meetings, must you permit any acts of a nature seriously to compromise material order or to trouble social peace. Until the Cour d'Assises shall be invested with the function of dealing with press offences you will not hesitate, should it become necessary, to apply the existing jurisdiction. The course of justice must not be interrupted by a project of reform, and so long as a law has not been abrogated it remains in full force. I am certain, M. le Procureur-Général, that you will zealously assist us in the difficult mission we have accepted. You will be encouraged in so doing by a sense of your responsibility, and also by the thought that there is no glory to equal that of labouring for the consolidation and the defence of free government.

PARLIAMENTARY BANQUETS.—Mr. Gladstone has issued invitations for a full-dress Parliamentary dinner on Monday next, to the mover and seconder of the Address (Captain the Hon. Francis Egerton, R.N., and Sir Charles Wentworth Dilke), and a large party of the Ministerial members of the House of Commons. Earl Granville has issued cards for a full-dress banquet at his residence in Bruton-street on the 7th inst. Among the peers invited are the Duke of Cambridge, the Marquis of Huntly, and the Earl of Fingall, the mover and seconder of the Address, and upwards of thirty supporters of the Government. Lord Cairns and Mr. Disraeli have issued cards to the leading members of the Opposition invitations to the usual Parliamentary dinners on the evening which precedes the opening of the Session.

DEATHS FROM DESTITUTION.—Last Saturday three cases of death from destitution came before Mr. Hampshires, at the Leigh Hoy Tavern, Mile-end New Town. The first was that of a shoemaker, named George Ellis, aged seventy-two years. After hearing the evidence, the jury returned a verdict of "Death from natural causes, accelerated by poverty of living." The second case was that of James Smith, aged forty-six years, who died in Whitechapel Workhouse, where he had been taken on Wednesday in a state of exhaustion. The verdict returned was "Death from inflammation of the lungs, accelerated by destitution." The third inquest was held on the body of Samuel Dodd, a writer and grainer, aged fifty-four years, who was also an inmate of Whitechapel Union. The jury returned a verdict of "Death from starvation."

REPORTED DEATH OF DR. LIVINGSTONE.

CAPTAIN the Hon. Ernest Cochrane, commanding her Majesty's ship Petrel on the West Coast of Africa, writes under date of Jan. 9, 1870:—

A few lines to tell you Dr. Livingstone has been killed and burnt by the natives ninety days' journey from the Congo. He passed through a native town, and was three days on his journey when the King of the town died. The natives declared Livingstone had bewitched him, sent after him, told him he had bewitched their King, and he must die. They then killed him and burnt him. This news comes by a Portuguese trader travelling that way. Livingstone was on the lakes at the head of the Congo, making his way to the Congo, where he was going to come out. I believe this news to be true.

Sir Roderick Murchison disbelieves this story, for reasons which he thus states:—

In his letter to Mr. Doherty from the west coast of Africa, of Jan. 9, 1870, Captain Cochrane states that a Portuguese trader had brought (to what place is not said) the information that when Livingstone was on the lakes at the head of the Congo, ninety days' journey from (the mouth of?) that river, he was killed and burnt by the natives.

Now, let us compare this statement with the facts and dates in our possession regarding the movements of our great traveller. Livingstone wrote from Ujiji on May 30, 1869, to Zanzibar requesting to be supplied with a number of boatmen and goods to enable him to proceed to the north of Lake Tanganyika, and, as he expressed it, "to connect the sources I have discovered with the Nile of Speke and Baker." Dr. Kirk, in his despatch to Lord Clarendon of Oct. 2, 1869, stated that he would lose no time in procuring and sending the supplies demanded. Granted that these requirements were forwarded in a week or two from that date, they could not have reached Livingstone before the middle of December, as it takes two months to communicate between Zanzibar and Ujiji. How, then, can Livingstone have had time to organise his expedition to proceed to the northern end of Tanganyika, and then round it to the yet unknown lakes at the head of the Congo, by the date required to verify this new rumour of his death? For the death, as will be perceived, must have happened ninety days before the news reached the Portuguese settlements on the west coast.

Even on the incredible supposition that Livingstone started alone and destitute as he then was at Ujiji, without waiting for the men and supplies he had written for, there would not have been time for him to have penetrated the totally unexplored and extensive region lying between Ujiji and the head waters of the Congo.

The report of the traveller's death, indeed, appears to be simply a revival of an old tale. Messrs. Grant, Brodie, and Co., of Leadenhall-street, write on this point as follows:—

The report of Dr. Livingstone's death, communicated in the letter from Captain Cochrane published in your issue of to-day, is doubtless the same as reached us some weeks ago, through our correspondents at St. Paul de Loanda; and, to allay the anxieties which will be excited by the publication of Captain Cochrane's letter, we beg to trouble you with a detail of the Portuguese trader's story, being a translation of his letter to our Loanda friends:—

"After a tedious journey, I crossed the Congo, near the town of the chief Katende, on a bridge of trees; and three days afterwards I took the direction south-south-east, calculating by the sun, until I reached the town of the chief Manguangwa, in twelve days' march from the Congo, and ninety-five days' from Malange (in Angola).

"Two months after my arrival—June 15, 1868—I received intelligence of the arrival at the town of the Chief Chinde on the other side of the Zambezi of a great embassy from Minata-Cazembe, who were going with tribute to Muata-Janso. Curiosity impelled me to send for the ambassador, who came with all his following—about 500 persons. Entering into conversation with him as to the route to Mozambique, the idea occurred to me to inquire about Dr. Livingstone. He replied that it was not right to speak about such a 'fetish man.' I feigned alarm at his answer, and allowed some days to pass without touching on the subject again. As we always became more friendly, I decided one night on inviting him to my tent, and there I had ready for him two jars of cacocho—a drink made from honey—and then, after causing the servant to retire, he told me with every appearance of secrecy the following story. The 'Calunga,' or Dr. Livingstone, was a great fetish man—he spoke every day with the sun—he never slept in a house—he did not fear the wild beasts—he always travelled with an animal in a box, which never ate anything, and he was always talking with it, and asking the way from it, as he never asked it from any person. Occasionally he opened papers and talked aloud to them; he passed rivers without a canoe, and did many other wonderful things. On his return from Loanda he had already the reputation of being a wizard, and no one cared to meet him. Some days after he passed on that journey there died a son of a chief residing at twenty days' march from the place where they were then conversing. Believing that Livingstone had bewitched his son, the chief pursued him, but failed to overtake him. After some time had elapsed, learning that Livingstone was approaching his territory, he sent out to meet him and gave him manioc or drink for testing fetish workers, and as soon as its deadly effects manifested themselves they quartered and burnt his body."

"Such is the information which Fumo Alaca, Ambassador of the Chief of Cazembe, communicated to me when I met him on the banks of the Zambezi from June 15 to 25, 1868."

We think there can be no question that the foregoing story is the same as Captain Cochrane has picked up; and, seeing that Dr. Livingstone was at Cazembe's town in July, 1868, and at Ujiji in May, 1869, or, if the Arab reports are correct, as late as July, 1869, there need be no alarm felt about the present rumour.

NAVAL PROMOTIONS.—Admiral Sir Fairfax Moresby, G.C.B., has been promoted to be an Admiral of the Fleet, in the room of the late Admiral Sir George Francis Seymour; Vice-Admiral Sir James Hope, G.C.B., to be Admiral; Rear-Admiral the Hon. Swynfen Thomas Carnegie, G.C.B., to be Vice-Admiral; and Captain James Aylmer Paynter to be Rear-Admiral. Rear-Admiral Richard Henry Stopford has also been promoted to be a Vice-Admiral on the Retired List. Admiral Sir Provo W.P. Wallis, G.C.B., now Rear-Admiral of the United Kingdom, will shortly be advanced to the rank of Vice-Admiral; and Sir William Hope Johnston, K.C.B., to that of Rear-Admiral. The latter officer steps over the head of Admiral Sir Houston Stewart, G.C.B., who prefers for the present remaining Governor and Visitor of Greenwich Hospital.

WESLEYAN MISSIONS.—The annual meeting of the Great Queen-street branch of this mission was held, on Wednesday evening last, in the Great Queen-street Chapel, Holborn. There was a very good attendance. Mr. Henry Heffell took the chair, and in his speech said he had consented to preside, but feared he was the wrong man in the wrong place. The secretary, in his report, said that the committee were thankful for the past assistance they had received, but the entire subscriptions, unfortunately, did not realise the same as the preceding year. This was mainly owing to the subscribers removing from their former residences, and he hoped that the meeting would not allow them to be behind in their donations. The report was moved and adopted; and several other speakers addressed the meeting. A collection was made at the close in aid of the Wesleyan Foreign Missions.

GAGGING A DRUNKEN WIFE.—A singular case was brought, on Monday, under the notice of the police magistrate of St. Heller's, Jersey. John Le Roy, watchmaker, about sixty years of age, was charged with having fixed his wife's head in a species of iron mask or cage on Saturday. The mask was produced in court. Its base consisted of a piece of rod iron, about 1½ in. thick, formed into a ring, about 8 in. or 9 in. in diameter. The top was a similar ring, about 6 in. in width. These two rings were connected by means of seven vertical bars of strong hoop iron, a couple of inches apart. The instrument opened with a hinge in the front, was fastened at the back by means of a padlock, and weighed 3 lb. In the front part, immediately opposite the mouth, a piece of iron hoop had been placed horizontally to prevent the wearer from getting anything up to her mouth; though this, it appeared, was ineffectual, as from the mask being too large, she had managed during the short time she had it on to turn it round on her head and drink a small glass of liquor. It appeared from the evidence of the wife that her husband forced the mask on her head for the first time on Saturday, when she was in a kneeling posture. She was seen in it by some of the neighbours, who went to the police and gave information, and by their orders the prisoner removed the mask. It seems that he had made no secret of the affair, having told some of the neighbours what he intended doing, and even asked one of the witnesses to allow him to use her head as a model. It also came out in evidence that the prisoner had made a large box into a species of cage with iron bars, into which he was in the habit of placing his wife occasionally. One of the witnesses in describing the box said the wife had plenty of room in it, and received no injury, "though it was not the place for a woman to be in." The prisoner, who treated the affair with the greatest nonchalance, said he was not aware that by doing as he had he was acting contrary to the law. His wife was so addicted to drunkenness that he did not know what to do with her. He had locked her up in the house, and she had escaped by the window to get drink. He had placed her five times in the General Hospital (the workhouse), but all was of no use; she was incorrigible. His only desire was to put a stop to her drinking. The wife (who had a half-besotted appearance) admitted the truth of what her husband had said, but added that "it was her only fault." The magistrate advised the man to make his wife an allowance of 5s. per week, and get a separation. Both of them agreed to this; and the prisoner was fined 10s. for the assault, which he cheerfully paid. The mask was confiscated, by order of the magistrate.

THE CHRISTIANS OF ASSYRIA.—An appeal has been published on behalf of the Nestorians, the Christians of Assyria, who inhabit the modern Kurdistan, one of the frontiers of Asiatic Turkey. The claims of the Assyrian Christians upon the liberality of English Churchmen are earnestly urged, and their profession of the tenets of the primitive creed and doctrine of the Catholic and Apostolic Church is emphatically indicated.

PROPOSED NEW STREET FROM CHARING-CROSS TO TOTTENHAM COURT-ROAD.—A joint deputation from the parishes of St. James, Westminster; St. Margaret and St. John, Westminster; and St. Anne, Westminster, waited on the First Commissioner of Works last week to urge upon the Government the propriety of making a communication between Pall-mall and Leicester-square, along the west front of the new National Gallery. The First Commissioner stated that it was not the present intention of the Government to build any west front to the National Gallery; but that, if the Metropolitan Board of Works or any local boards proposed to make a good street to Leicester-square in that direction, they would take the matter into consideration and modify their plans, if possible, so as to allow the street to be made.

SCENES IN ROME DURING THE COUNCIL.

THE "BEFANA," OR FESTIVAL OF EPIPHANY.

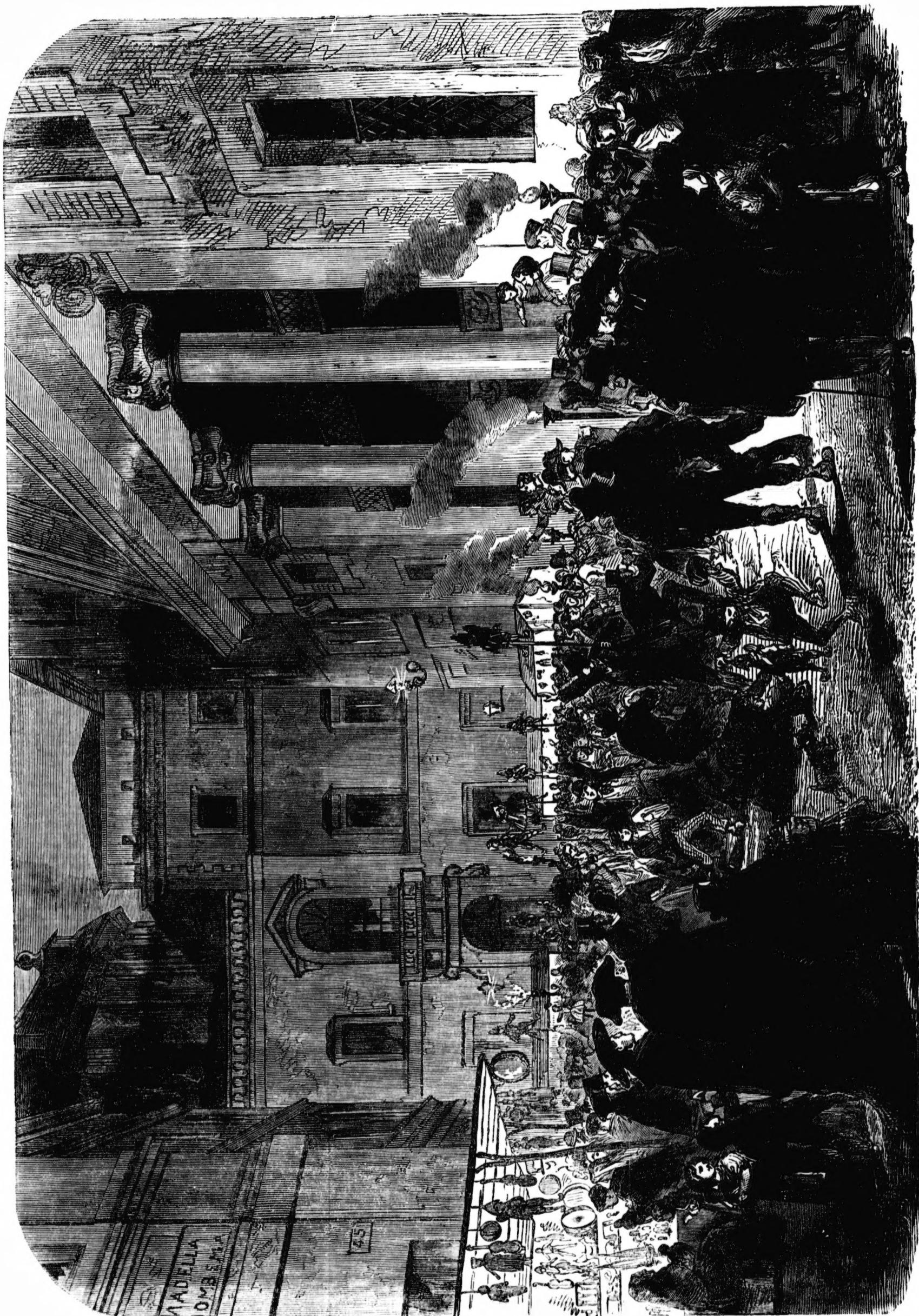
EVEN in the midst of the pageants that belong to the assembling of the Council, and the appearance of strange ecclesiastical costumes in places of public resort, the people of Rome are inclined to give up their own particular observances. If the Fathers of the Church are willing to afford a spectacle to the loungers of the streets wherein are to be found the entrances to museums, picture-galleries, and other rare-shows of the Eternal City, the populace have no mind to evade the obligation of returning the compliment. The Roman hunts in the Campagna, already described long ago in these columns, number more than the average meet of horsemen and horsewomen; the "beggars," who have been "coming to town" almost as promptly as the Bishops, are in rare force in the usual place devoted to their particular exhibitions; and the contadini are "all there." Foremost among the festivals, however, has been the "Befana," the name given to the popular observances of Twelfth Day.

"Befana" appears to have several significations, one of which is neither more nor less than what we should call Old Bogey—something undefined but supernatural; and the impersonation of "Befana" has been that of a figure with a hideous countenance, thick lips, fierce expression, and bloodshot eyes; while Berni has described it as a puppet dressed in rags, which women and children in Southern Italy used to place in the window at the Feast of the Epiphany. It is evident, however, from the connection of the word, as well as from some dim suggestion in the customary observances, that "Befana" is derived from "Epiphania," or manifestation; and that in a remote way the puppets and the games have reference to the Feast of Kings—an anniversary universally observed by the nations of Southern Europe, and sanctioned by the Popes, who as lately as 1802 received on that day a "Befana" gift from one of the sacred societies, consisting of one hundred ducats of gold and a silver chalice. Curiously enough, however, "Befana" still applies more to the figures or representative personages in the festival than to the day on which it is observed. Its old significance of appearance or manifestation was even applied to the mythological visits of the heathen divinities from Olympus to the Earth, and while there was a "Befana" of benevolent or kindly patrons there was also that of avenging or maleficent powers. This old heathen superstition seems to have been mingled as others have been, with the holiday ceremonies of the Romish calendar in Italy. Curiously enough—and, did space permit, we could go into quite an antiquarian disquisition on the subject—Mr. Punch has become mixed up with this strange jumble of symbolism; and when we remember that some antiquaries have held the original Punch's drama to have been the corruption of some very ancient mystery and morality, the fact is singularly suggestive. At any rate, the figure of Polichinello is prominent in the observances of the Epiphany at Rome, and probably represents the good influence, since he is generally associated with all kinds of welcome presents, toys, and sweetmeats. These gifts, as well as more costly presents, represent the twelfth-cake, of which the Papal States do not observe the custom; and the "Befana" is as much an anniversary of *étrene*s in Rome as New-Year's Day in Paris or Boxing Day in England.

The pagan custom to which the Early Fathers probably wedded the observance of the adoration of the Magi was the visit to the temple of the goddess Strenia, whence the people went to the top of the Tarpeian rock, carrying green branches gathered in the sacred wood to the dwelling of Tatius. Now, the Befana is neither more nor less than a fair for the sale of toys, sweets, fruit, ornaments, dress, jewels, and all kinds of coveted merchandise, exhibited in small wooden huts on the square of St. Eustache and its neighbourhood. It is said that there is a rolicking disregard of sobriety exhibited in this quarter, which may shock some of the prelates; but no complaints have yet reached the public ear from any scandalised Bishop who has been a witness of its revelry.

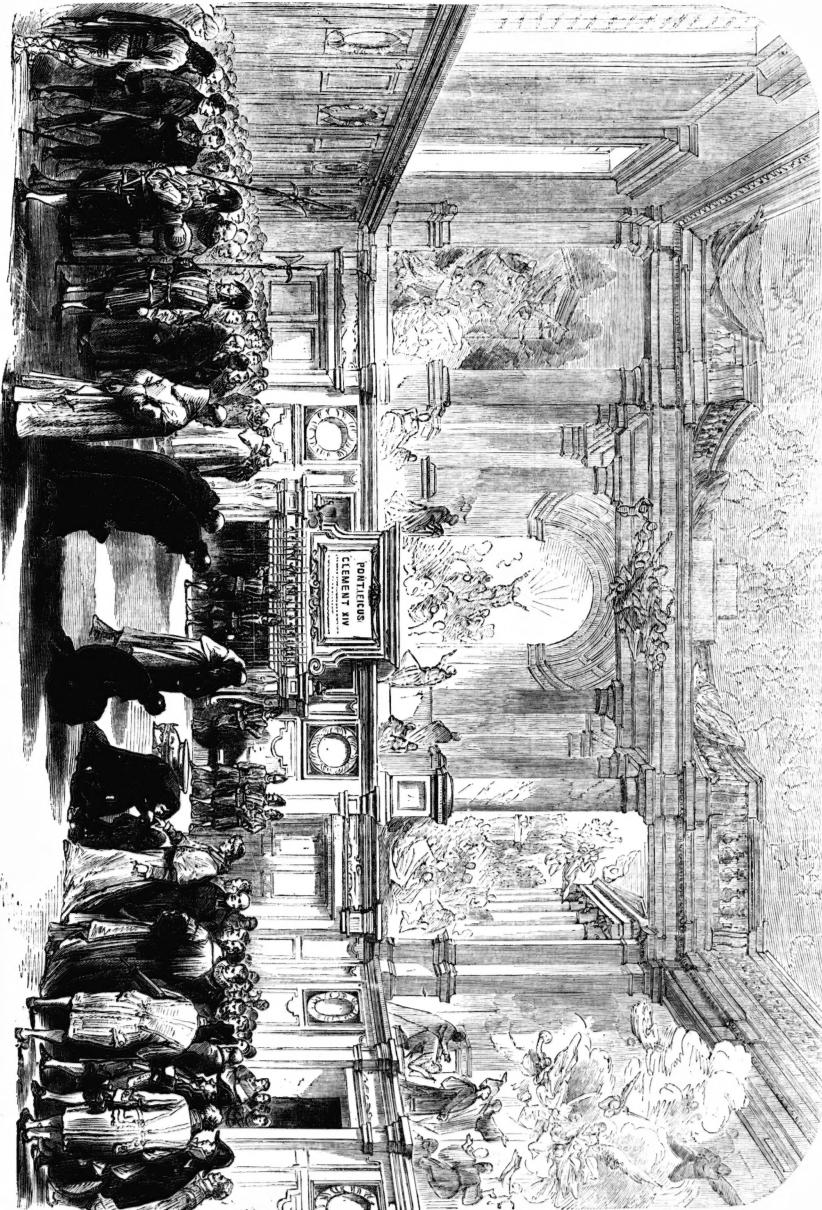
THE POPE'S ANTE-CHAMBER.

The other scene in Rome which we this week illustrate is of a totally different character from the popular saturnalia on a solemn occasion already described. The ante-chamber in the Pope's palace is the gathering place for those prelates attending the council who wish to pay their court to his Holiness. Here assemble venerable Fathers of the Church, who advance in solemn procession, two and two, up the floor of the spacious chamber, and deem it a high favour to be permitted to kiss the ring on the Pope's hand. On all sides are grouped ecclesiastics who have either already had their audience or are waiting their turn; while interspersed among them are his Holiness' guards—beef-eaters, we would call them in England, but perhaps macaroni-eaters would be a more appropriate title in the City of the Seven Hills. These martial officials, while they permit the advance of the Fathers, seem to "put down their foot," or their halberds, very decidedly against the intrusion of mere laymen, as is evident from the air assumed by two of them in the right-hand corner of our Engraving. Speaking of officials, who can those half-beadle, half-Paul-Pry-looking individuals, with cocked-hats, laced coats, knee-breeches, and umbrellas be who occupy positions on the extreme right of the scene? We wish our Artist had been good enough to give us some information about those interesting persons—they look so "very English" in their beadle-like costume. Apropos of the Pope's guards, a writer in the Vienna *Wanderer* gives some curious information touching his Holiness's soldiers, and the reason of the frequent desertions among them. He says:—"The Papal Government finds great difficulty in enlisting soldiers, and those who have served six months or a year beneath the Roman standard cannot be persuaded to do so any longer. The reason of this is evident. In all Catholic countries, even in distant Canada, the situation of the Pope is painted in the darkest colours. The clergy are filled with the holy fire of pious indignation, and preach in glowing terms of the insults which the Pope must endure. Indeed, they assure the young men that the head of their Church is not only in continual danger, but exposed to ill-treatment of the most exasperating kind. The inexperienced are easily moved to pity, and romantic dreams of heroic actions induce the young and



THE "BEFANA," OR FESTIVAL OF EPIPHANY, AT ROME.

THE "DEFANA," OR FESTIVAL OF EGYPTIAN, AT HOME.



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"I am half distract'd, Captain Shandy," said Mrs. Wadman, holding up her cambric handkerchief to her left eye, as she approached the door of my Uncle Toby's sentry-box ; "a mote,—or sand,—or something,—I know not what, has got into this eye of mine :—do look into it :—it is not in the white." Honest soul ! thou didst look into it with as much innocency of heart as ever child looked into a raree-show-box ; and 'twere as much a sin to have hurt thee. I see him yonder, with his pipe pendulous in his hand, and the ashes falling out of it,—looking,—and looking,—then rubbing his eyes,—and looking again, with twice the good nature that ever Galileo looked for a spot in the sun. In vain ! for, by all the powers which animate the organ—Widow Wadman's left eye shines this moment as lucid as her right ;—there is neither mote nor sand, nor dust, nor chaff, nor speck, nor particle of opaque matter, floating in it. There is nothing, my dear paternal uncle ! but one lambent delicious fire, furtively shooting out from every part of it, in all directions, into thine. If thou lookest, Uncle Toby, in search of this mote one moment longer, thou art undone.—Tristram Shandy.

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POLITICAL PATRONAGE.

WE are in this column endeavouring to approach by degrees the *sacrum* of the question of government by representation and by party. The great point which crops out everywhere is that we have not yet trodden the threshold of the subject. It is as plain as daylight to those who can read the signs of the times, that, to parody Waller, the Constitution's dark cottage, battered and decayed, lets in new light through chinks that time has made, and that we shall yet have to cross the wilderness before reaching the land flowing with milk and honey that is involved in the idea of self-government. One little "chink" in the "battered cottage" was touched in passing by Mr. Fawcett, in his speech at Brighton the other day. In recommending the adoption of the competitive principle in arranging certain minor Government appointments, to which it is not yet applied, the hon. gentleman is reported to have spoken as follows :

The present system of political patronage is based upon favouritism, and is too often the parent of political jobbery and corruption. We are not sincere in our efforts to put down corruption if we do not strike at it in high places. Can we with any show of decency punish the poor man who takes £1 for his vote, and sanction the system which rewards a more wealthy and influential person for his political support with a place for his son or his nephew ? If he is a member of Parliament and is very rich, and has for twenty years, without a murmur, gone into whatever lobby the party whip told him to enter, he probably obtains a knighthood, a baronetcy, or a peerage.

Now, these are arresting words ; but who does not see that they strike at the root of government by party—at least, under representative conditions ? We only make this exception with an eye to a very remote phase of the subject ; for, of course, until all mankind are politically agreed, all government must be party government—in the sense of control exercised by a majority over a minority. The conditions which make this state of things fair are, first, that every one of the governed has a voice in the making of the laws, and, in exchange for that right, consents, as a matter of convenience, that his freedom, if he happens to be one of the minority, shall be limited by the will of the greater number. The second condition is, that the particulars in which the control shall be exercised are only such as with fairness all round can be referred to public decision.

So long as we have party government, these conditions cannot possibly be realised ; nor, indeed, can they be realised under any form of representative government yet in use on any large scale. It is plain that there is a vast difference between, on the one hand, promising a member of Parliament a place for his son or a peerage for himself if he will pursue a certain political course, and, on the other hand, assigning a place or any other reward to a man who has consistently served the cause of his party. The curious state of public feeling and opinion in the matter was illustrated by what took place in the case of Sir Roundell Palmer when Mr. Gladstone came into power. We all know that this great lawyer and honoured gentleman would have lost an immense sum of money if he had gone to the woolsack, and that in all probability he will yet be Lord Chancellor some day ; in other words, that he will finally have had the money and the dignity too. Yet most people talked or wrote as if to stick to his own opinion on the very momentous question of the Irish Church was an act of most exalted virtue, simply because he missed for a time the highest prize, as it is called, of his profession. The fact is, it is an anomaly that such appointments as those of Lord Chancellor and Attorney and Solicitor General should be looked upon as political rewards.

Yet some anomaly of the kind must necessarily cling to government by party, not only in its present form, but in any form whatever. Get our government machinery as we may, there must be officers ; those officers must be appointed by other officers ; and if the functions of the lower be such as will be influenced by their political opinions, the choice must be made with some regard to those opinions. What, then, can we do to minimise political patronage, and to place under open and efficient checks whatever remains of it we may be forced to keep ? Not much, we fear, until what is called self-government has passed into a fresh phase altogether—a phase of which something may be submitted to the reader in another article. But, in the mean time, Mr. Fawcett is quite right in declaring that questions of economy, fairness, and publicity in making appointments cannot stop at the lower rungs of the ladder. The poor discharged clerks and supernumeraries and work-people will have their revenge before long—a revenge which was prophesied for them in this Journal some months ago. The impending abolition of the dual government of the Army is only an instalment of the changes that are coming.

ST. STEPHEN'S CRYPT, WESTMINSTER.

The restoration of this beautiful relic of the architecture of the fourteenth century is now completed, and the sternest economist who visits the Houses of Parliament will hardly grudge the expenditure on a spot so suggestive in name and so rich in tradition. The chapel itself was burnt, and no attempt was made to revive its ancient glories ; but the crypt remained, and its restoration, when works of more obvious necessity had been finished, proceeded gradually, until now it is one of the richest, though the smallest, interiors in England.

Among the most recent additions is the erection of an elaborate wrought-iron screen, separating the western bay from the rest of the chapel, and forming it, in fact, into an ante-chapel. The screen, which is about 5 ft. high, with central gates, is finely executed by Messrs. Hardman, of Birmingham, and the design recalls that of the grille over Queen Eleanor's tomb in Westminster Abbey. A pair of delicately-worked iron gates of corresponding design have also been placed in the archway leading to the Baptistry ; and, as the whole of the ironwork has been gilt, a very rich effect is produced. The Baptistry is a little gem of art, in its way quite unique. In plan it is octagonal, inclosing an area only 11 ft. across and 20 ft. high ; but within this nutshell structure there is choice work and material, which few visitors will like to pass without close scrutiny. The roof is groined and decorated with scrollwork on a gold ground, the groin ribs springing from shafts of polished Purbeck marble. To a height of 6 ft. the walls are lined with polished alabaster and marble, laid with ornamental devices, and surrounded by a projecting cornice of alabaster boldly carved with conventional foliage. The paving is of Minton's tiles intermixed with marble. A window of two lights, with tracery of a geometrical design, occupies the east side of the octagon ; and a gilt candelabrum of wrought iron will supply the needful artificial light. Above the cornice the walls are beautifully painted in compartments by Messrs. Clayton and Bell, that opposite the door representing a full-length portrait of our Saviour, and the west compartment a full-length painting of St. John the Baptist. On the other walls are angels pictured in the attitude of adoration, and swinging censers, while above and below the angels the remaining portions of the wall are covered with scrollwork in gold and colours. On each side of the window recess is a series of medallions bearing the heads of saints—St. Peter, the patron Saint of Westminster ; St. Stephen, who gives his name to the chapel, and the four Evangelists. In the centre of the Baptistry stands, of course, the font, which is cut from a large block of alabaster, and rests on a group of eight polished marble shafts with carved foliated capitals. The Baptistry itself is entered from the western bay of the crypt or ante-chapel, and is shut off from it by an archway fitted with the fine gates before described. At the entrance is a marble slab, let into the floor, with an incised design representing the entrance of Noah into the ark, which the Church holds up to us as a type of baptism ; and in the thickness of the walls of the entrance archways there are full-length figures of Moses and St. John the Baptist, representing the Mosaic and Christian dispensations.

It is not often that the "dim religious light" which penetrates here—very dim on most days—allows you to see all the beauties of the crypt or the Baptistry. A bright summer day is wanted for a satisfactory examination of either. But you see enough to be satisfied that here is a miniature chapel of exquisite beauty, the restoration of which must have been a labour of love to all engaged in it, and which is now worthy of the historic memories connected with it. St. Stephen's Chapel, of which it formed a part, was one of the finest specimens of the "Decorated" architecture of the fourteenth century, and seems to have resembled in many respects the still earlier structure of La Sainte Chapelle, in Paris. Its glories will now be handed down by the crypt, which has been so carefully restored, or rather rebuilt, under the direction of Mr. E. M. Barry, R.A., the architect to the New Palace at Westminster. But one thing remains. The chapel, for such it now is, is there ; but where is the congregation ? Altar, pulpit, font, and seats—all are ready for use ; the crypt is well warmed, and might be well lighted ; and no visitor can help regretting that a structure so beautiful and so fit for devotion should not have its last and most natural complement of regular service and worship in connection with the great building of which it forms a part. During the Session the officers of the two Houses might easily supply a congregation ; and has not Mr. Speaker a Chaplain ?

MR. SAMUEL MORLEY AND HIS WORKPEOPLE.—We understand that Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P., during his visit to Nottingham, last week, again manifested that thoughtful consideration for the comfort of the aged persons in the employ of the firm which has endeared him to all his workpeople. He gave directions that thirty old workmen should be added to the list of persons to whom he allows the sum of 7s. per week. We believe the total number of workpeople in this town and neighbourhood to whom a weekly allowance is made exceeds one hundred, and something like £2000 per annum is thus paid amongst them.—*Nottingham Express.*

A PIERBALD CROW.—On Wednesday morning a man in the employ of the Rev. W. H. Gretton, Burley-wood, East Woodhay, Hants, shot a crow which had been watched with much interest in that neighbourhood for several weeks, many futile attempts to kill it having been made on account of its peculiar appearance. On examination it was found that seven feathers of one wing and five of the other, besides the plumage on a portion of the neck, were of pure white colour. This *rara avis* is in the possession of the Rev. W. H. Gretton, who has arranged for its preservation. The crow is believed to be one of last year's birds.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—It has been usual to terminate the performances of pantomime at the end of January, but the daily attendance of large numbers of visitors to witness "Whittington and his Cat" this year has led to its continuance for another fortnight. The spirit infused into the pantomime by the principal performers and the homely and interesting character of its story, have invested it with a much higher degree of interest than is usual with these ephemeral productions. On Tuesday next, Feb. 8, besides the pantomime and the graceful performances of the American skaters, Messrs. Moe and Goodrich, the annual show of the National Peristeronic Society will be held in the tropical department. From the high-sounding title of this amateur association few people probably understand that its objects are to improve the breed of pigeons, and by holding these annual exhibitions, to enable pigeon-keepers to improve their collections. Only those who have been present at the society's shows can have any conception of the interesting character of the exhibition of these beautiful pet birds. They are shown in handsome mahogany cages, and some of the pairs are valued at almost fabulous prices. The show never remains open beyond one day. It will open at mid-day and close at dusk.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY has been obliged to give up her intention of opening Parliament in person, in consequence of her late indisposition.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES left Gunton on Thursday for London.

THE KING OF PRUSSIA has resolved to grant a free pardon to all Hanoverian legionaries now in France, on condition of their returning at once to their homes. Their travelling expenses will also be provided for.

THE KING OF THE BELGIANS, on Tuesday, received the English Mayors, who presented his Majesty with the casket containing the national address. The King expressed his warm thanks for the flattering terms of the address.

HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE HASSAN, son of the Viceroy of Egypt, has returned to Oxford, for the purpose of pursuing his studies at the University.

LORD HENRY G. LENNOX, M.P., will preside at the Educational Conference to be held at the Society of Arts on Monday, Feb. 7 next, at eleven o'clock, to discuss the proposals of Manchester and Birmingham, and, if possible, agree to a compromise.

SIR HENRY BARRON has been unseated for Waterford on the ground of bribery, and condemned to pay the expenses. Mr. Bernal O'Brien is disqualified, and the seat is declared vacant.

THE REV. JAMES FRASER was, on Monday, unanimously elected by the Dean and Chapter of Manchester as the successor to Dr. Prince Lee.

M. RANTAIL is fast recovering from his severe illness.

THE GREAT EASTERN STEAM-SHIP anchored in Bombay harbour on the 29th ult.

MR. DYER, of Cirencester College, has been appointed by Earl De Grey to the Professorship of Botany in the Royal College of Science, Dublin.

MR. MARTIN TUPPER has just met with a serious carriage accident, which, besides some smaller injuries, has severely crushed his right hand.

MR. C. F. D'ANYERS ORRED has been appointed assistant private secretary to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

MR. BALFE is recovering from his recent attack of bronchitis.

A PETITION has been lodged against the return of Mr. Greville-Nugent for Longford, on the grounds of bribery, treating, and intimidation.

THE REV. MARTIN LUTHER RULE, one of the Curates of the well-known Ritualist Church of St. Paul's, Brighton, has joined the Church of Rome.

THE BANK OF AUSTRALASIA has forwarded, through the Lord Mayor, a donation of 100 gs. to the National Emigration League.

WORKMEN are now engaged in fixing the gas-columns for the Thames Embankment on the granite pedestals. The columns are of handsome design, and are about 8 ft. high.

M. JOSEPH HAUSMANN, uncle of the late Prefect of the Seine, and a very large house-owner in Paris, has just died at the age of seventy-four. His illness led to a false report that his nephew was dangerously ill at Nice.

THE MIDLAND COMPANY'S LINE between Sheffield and Chesterfield, and the North Staffordshire Company's line from Stoke-on-Trent to Market Drayton, were opened on Tuesday.

SIR GEORGE BOWYER is going to Rome to take his turn in guarding the door of the Council Chamber. Sir George owes this distinction to the fact of his being a Knight of Malta, to which order this duty has been intrusted.

THE ELECTION FOR MALLOW, vacant by the elevation of Mr. Sullivan to the Bench as Irish Master of the Rolls, terminated, on Wednesday, in the return of Mr. Munster, the numbers at the close of the poll, as reported by telegraph, being—Mr. Munster (Liberal), 91 ; Major Knox (Conservative), 83.

MR. GIFFORD, the newly-appointed Judge in the Scottish Court of Session, presented his commission to the First Division of the Court on Tuesday, and, after the usual probationary trials, took his seat as Lord Gifford.

ARCHDEACON MACKENZIE, the Bishop Suffragan of Nottingham, was, on Wednesday, consecrated in St. Mary's Church, in that town. Six Bishops took part in the laying on of hands. The Archbishop of Syra, who was present, received an address after the service.

THE COMMITTEE OF ORGANISATION, appointed to draw up the draught of a constitution for the Church of Ireland, have prepared a report. It is to be submitted for the approval of the General Convention, a body which is to meet on the 15th inst.

MR. TENNYSON'S "HOLY GRAIL" is valued in America at a few cents. Over here it requires a keen sense of its hidden merits to appreciate it at all!—*Tomahawk.*

THE LAMBETH POLICE MAGISTRATE took possession on Monday of the new court which has just been erected near the site of the old one in Kennington-lane. The new edifice is larger and much more commodious.

TWO CASES OF SUDDEN DEATHS IN CHURCH are reported. In the one case a respectable tradesman expired in church at Scarborough ; in the other a militia sergeant died while attending Divine service at church in Alnwick, Northumberland. Both cases occurred on Sunday morning last.

THE TRANSIT DUES OF THE SUEZ CANAL will, in the case of steamers, be charged upon the net official tonnage, excluding, that is, the space occupied by the engines.

HENRY WELCOME, convicted on Jan. 10, at Burlington, Vermont, of murder, the object of which was robbery, was sentenced on that day to be kept in solitary confinement for one year, and to be hung in January, 1871.

AN EFFORT is being made to obtain the release of William Strong, the young man sent to prison for shooting a pheasant under circumstances which were mentioned in our last week's Number. The Mayor of Tiverton and six of the borough magistrates have addressed the Home Secretary upon the subject.

A POWDER-MILL, in the village of Dunwald, near Mulheim, Rhenish Prussia, was destroyed by an explosion last Saturday. Fifteen persons were blown to pieces and three others severely injured. The shock was felt for many miles round.

MR. LEONARD EDMUNDS has notified that he intends to apply next term to the Queen's Bench for leave to file a criminal information against Mr. W. E. Gladstone, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. James Stanfield, and Mr. George A. Hamilton, who signed the Treasury minute branding him as a "public defaulter."

HENRY LONGDEN, who was formerly a guardian of the St. Pancras union, was finally examined on Tuesday at the Westminster Police Court, on a charge of having fraudulently induced several persons to cash his cheques on the London and County Bank, his account there having long before been closed. He was committed for trial.

JAMES CLIFFORD, charged with the offence of "sweating" gold coin, was found guilty, at Monday's sitting of the Central Criminal Court, and sentenced to two years' imprisonment, with hard labour. The indictment against his daughter, twelve years of age, was not pressed.

A MAN, whose name is unknown, committed suicide on the Great Western Railway on Tuesday afternoon. As a train was running between Rossett and Chester the driver saw a man, who was sitting on a stile by the side of the line, jump forward and deliberately lay himself down across the metals on which the train was approaching. His head was severed from his body.

MR. W. R. MALCOLM, barrister of Lincoln's Inn, has been appointed by Mr. Bright to the Assistant Secretoryship of the Railway Department of the Board of Trade, vacant by the appointment of Mr. R. G. W. Herbert to Assistant Under-Secretary at the Colonial Office. Mr. Malcolm has been employed under Mr. Thring in drawing various Government bills, and, amongst others, the Merchant Shipping Bill, for the Board of Trade.

"A CHRISTIAN YOUNG MAN," named Clark, a Sabbath-school teacher and a confidential counterman in a large draper's shop in Greenock, has just been detected in an extensive scheme of petty swindling by means of falsified cheques. Clark absconded to London when he found himself discovered ; but he was taken back, and is now in custody awaiting his trial.

WHERE CLAIMS UPON INSURANCE OFFICES are made in respect of damage by fire, the offices frequently take possession of the salvage without allowing the claimant access to it. An instance of this came before the Court of Common Pleas yesterday, when the Chief Justice expressed his strong disapprobation of the practice, than which nothing could be more wrong or contrary to law.

THE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEAL has affirmed the conviction for embezzlement of the secretary to a local Friendly Society in Worcestershire, which had occasionally contributed to the support of men on strike. For the prisoner it was contended that the society was established, in part at least, for an illegal object ; but he was found guilty, and sentenced to a year's imprisonment, with hard labour. He will now undergo the full term of his punishment.

A NATIONAL EDUCATION LEAGUE FOR IRELAND was formed on Monday, under the presidency of Sir Edward Coey. The objects of the league are to maintain non-sectarian education in Ireland, promote measures for the further application and development of the non-sectarian principle, to oppose any change in the existing national system interfering with that principle, to remove any anomalies that might have crept into the operation of the system inconsistent with that principle, to raise the status of the teacher, and to improve the quality of the education in national schools. The committee will convene an inaugural meeting on an early day.

THE LOUNGER.

TIME hastens on. Parliament will again be in Session by the middle of next week. And I suspect that in your next number you will have to chronicle the fact that the Premier has given notice that on a certain early day he will move "for leave to bring in a bill" to deal with the vastly important Irish land question; and I think it is pretty nearly certain that in about three weeks, or even less time, after the meeting of Parliament the great measure, which we are all on the tiptoe of expectation to see, will in its broad outline be before the nation. I have no certain information that Mr. Gladstone will move so rapidly in the matter. It is my knowledge of the man that inspires me thus to prophesy. Gladstone, when he has important business on hand, never lets the grass grow under his feet. He of all statesmen that I ever knew most faithfully obeys the scriptural precept, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might." I have heard that he is full of this question, thinks and talks of little else, and is longing, like a greyhound in the slip, to get to his work. War, then, will soon begin—that is, if there is to be a war. For my part, I do not expect that there will be any desperate fighting. There are at present no signs of conflict discernible, no "dreadful note of preparation" heard. The opinion at the clubs is that this will not be made a party question, and that there will be no attempt made by the Conservatives to hamper and perplex the Government by factional opposition. One thing is quite certain—to wit, that the Conservatives will not attempt to defeat, with a view to displace, the Government. They know that the Ministerial majority is so large and so loyal that no possible combination could enable them to achieve this. Besides, it seems to be understood that there is a strong feeling amongst the Conservatives that the time has arrived when something must be done with the land question, and a disposition to accept a reasonably liberal bill lest something worse should come. They have lately learned wisdom by bitter experience; and they will not soon again leap without looking, as they did when, with the support of "The Cave," led by Lord Dunkellin, they defeated the Government on the memorable night of June 8, 1866. "Once bit, twice shy," says an English proverb; and so terribly has the Conservative party been bitten, that it will be uncommonly shy for a very long time. On the whole, then, I think that, though the members will have to sit late and work hard this Session, there will not be more than the usual excitement.

In the *Times* of Tuesday Mr. George Poulett Scrope, a most respectable Liberal, who represented Stroud from 1833 to 1867, called attention to the unreclaimed lands of Ireland. He gives us in his letter these startling facts. "There are three millions and a half of acres of waste lands, which we know to be improvable from £75,000 to £22,500,000, whilst the first three or four years' crops would return the costs requisite to bring about the change, and that half a million of labourers and cottier tenants might be settled on this land;" and this is not to be taken upon the *ipse dixit* of Mr. Scrope; it is an extract from the Report of Lord Devon's Commission, made in 1847. Thus much for Ireland. But there is a still larger number of acres of unreclaimed but reclaimable land in England. And why is not all this waste reclaimed? There are several reasons. First and foremost, it is most of it settled or entitled, and probably encumbered with mortgages, settlements, dowries, &c. The tenants for life have most likely no money to spend upon it, and cannot alleviate it; and so there it lies waste, and all but useless. One wonders whether Mr. Gladstone, whilst he was framing his Irish land bill, had his eye upon these waste lands in England. Perhaps he had; and perhaps may propose "a honest law," to settle and reclaim these wildernesses. Mr. Poulett Scrope points out that here we might have a large number of "peasant proprietors" without much difficulty.

Mr. Corry and Sir John Hay have been to Portsmouth on a voyage of discovery, and have had, according to the *Army and Navy Gazette*, large success. They have discovered that the Admiralty has purchased brown paper which will not hold the tar in which it is saturated; hides which cannot be manufactured into hose, except at a ruinous expense; coals which will not generate steam; and many other blunders and misdoings, all which the ex-First Lord and ex-Junior Lord, thus primed, will, as soon as opportunity offers, bring before Parliament to prove that the indefatigable Secretary, though he may have saved present money, has not really administered the dockyards so economically as the aforesaid ex-officials did. Sad this, if true. Ay, there's the rub. I am told that not a word of it is true; and I can well believe it. The paragraph, to me, has an odour about it of the factory of fibs, which has been set up by discharged contractors and dishonest officials who have lost their "tips." We shall see. I should, *pendente lite*, back Mr. Baxter. That some mistake may have been made is possible, though I have heard of none; but that anything comparable to the anchor and chain blunders, or worse, and the purchasing of jute-bags at the price of hemp, has been discovered, is not conceivable. But do I charge Mr. Corry and Lord John Hay with misrepresentation? By no means. They went down to Portsmouth Dockyard to get proofs of something which they earnestly desired to prove, and they got them, as men in such case mostly do. Even in this rationalist age, when the great majority of educated people—perhaps three fourths of her Majesty's subjects—utterly disbelieve in supernatural appearances, let a man who believes in them go on a journey through the land for evidence of their occurrence, and he will soon fill his budget with proofs that ghosts and spirits now, as of old, do often revisit the glimpses of the moon. But they vanish with the night; and I have no doubt whatever that, when Mr. Baxter shall, as he will, turn his bull's-eye upon these ugly-looking facts, they will all melt away.

The telegraphs have been transferred from the companies to the Post Office. The consideration has been paid, and the companies have most of them held meetings to divide the spoils. Reuter's Company received £276,000. Out of this splendid sum the meeting awarded £1000 to Mr. Vernon Harcourt, the senior counsel, in addition, I presume, to his professional fees; £2000 to Mr. G. C. Bompas, the solicitor; £750 to Mr. Griffith, the secretary; and a similar sum to be distributed among the establishment. Then it was ordered that £2500 be placed at the disposal of the directors for distribution among "certain other persons whose services had been of value in reference to the concession, and in the promotion of the interests of the company." This is, presumably, a sort of secret-service money, and of course the names of the recipients are not given. As a precedent for this secrecy the directors might plead the custom of her Majesty's Government, which annually receives about £30,000 for secret services, and renders no account. The meeting also awarded £5000 to Mr. Reuter and £4000 to the directors. The shareholders are to receive £77 on each £25 share, and a paid-up share of £8 in the "Nordenay cable," whatever that may be, making altogether for the £25 share £85—profit £60. Truly, a pleasant meeting that, the like of which does not, one would think, often occur. The meeting of the Magnetic Company, though, was equally pleasant. This company voted £6000 to the directors, £2000 to Mr. Bright, the manager, and £6000 to the staff, whilst the shareholders get £185 for every £100. But what I have said about these two companies does not tell all the tale. In 1866, before the plan of handing over the telegraphs to the Government was mooted, the market price of a share in Reuter's Company, on which £20 had been paid up, was only £17 10s. At the distribution the other day, when £25 was paid up, the shareholders got £85. The Magnetic £100 share, all paid, was in 1866 worth only £82; at the late distribution the shareholders got £185. Now suppose Mr. Reuter held one hundred shares; in 1866 these were worth about £250. In 1869 he gets from the Government for these one hundred shares £8200. If, then, the price in 1866 was the normal value, Mr. Reuter gets £5950 above the normal value; and, adding to this the £5000 presented to him by the directors, the Government, by purchase of this line, has put £10,950 into Mr. Reuter's pocket. Do my readers remember the classical story of Dana? Dana was a fair lady who was loved by Jupiter. But Dana was as coy as fair, and Jupiter only in the shape of a shower of gold

could win her. This is a fable. But here is a fact very much like the fable. Ah! Mr. Editor, I wish you and I had something which the Government wanted to buy.

The members of the Art-Union of London have just had presented to them a very handsome volume, which is more than worth the whole amount of the annual subscription. This is a set of beautiful engravings, from designs by H. C. Selous, illustrative of the Rev. Canon Kingsley's historical romance, "Heward the Wake, Last of the English." Each one of Mr. Selous's designs, of which there are twenty in all, is a perfect picture in itself, full of individuality in the characters, admirable in drawing, distinguished by excellent grouping, and collectively telling the story of the headstrong, reckless, and yet in many respects noble hero, who represents the last of those English who possessed this kingdom before the advent of the Norman conquerors. Mr. Selous has evidently entered thoroughly into the spirit of his subject; and has had full justice done to his conceptions by Mr. C. G. Lewis, the engraver, who has rendered the artist's designs in an almost faultless manner. Those familiar with Mr. Kingsley's tale will recognise the points selected for illustration when I mention that the plates are respectively entitled:—1, "Heward's interview with his mother and the priest Herluin"; 2, "Martin Lightfoot undertakes to be the bearer of the letter to Earl Leofric"; 3, "Heward sees Martin Lightfoot depart with the letter"; 4, "Heward informs his uncle the Prior that he is about to be outlawed"; 5, "How Martin Lightfoot overtakes Heward"; 6, "How Heward slew the bear"; 7, "How Heward was caught in a trap"; 8, "Heward runs his ship upon the Flanders shore"; 9, "Heward enters the consecrated fortress of St. Bertin"; 10, "Heward's first interview with Torfrida"; 11, "How Heward turned Berserker"; 12, "Heward recognises Alfruda"; 13, "How Heward cleared Bourne of Frenchmen"; 14, "How Torfrida teaches Heward to pray"; 15, "How Heward rescues Alfruda"; 16, "Heward guards Alfruda to a place of safety"; 17, "How Heward played the potter and cheated the King"; 18, "How Heward departed from Ely, and how he killed his mare Swallow"; 19, "How Heward came in to the King"; and, 20, "How Heward got the rest of his soul's price." For the benefit of those who have not read the romance, an epitome of the story is prefixed to the plates, from which a tolerably clear idea of the leading incidents may be obtained. This volume, I should think, must be esteemed a prize indeed by the members of the Union; and as it is possible that some of your readers may not be fully aware of the advantages offered by the Art-Union of London, I shall be doing them a service by explaining what these advantages are. In the first place, the subscription is one guinea per annum, which entitles 1, to the chance of a prize in the annual drawing in April (said prize being often of very considerable value); 2, an impression of one or more plates produced expressly for the society; or a volume of illustrations of some poem or other work, by a British author; or a medal, in bronze, commemorative of some British artist. The prizes include the right to select a valuable work of art from one of the public exhibitions; reproductions of fine works in silver, bronze, or iron; statuettes and busts in porcelain; silver medals and other works, all produced expressly for the Union. There are here ample inducements to subscribe, for good value for the money must be obtained, while a great deal more than value may fall to the lot of the holder of a lucky number. One rule of the society is particularly comforting to those who have not been fortunate in the drawing. It is to this effect:—"Any member who has subscribed 10 guineas in successive years, ending with the current year, without gaining a prize of any kind in that period, shall be entitled to one of the porcelain busts as a special prize. An accidental omission of payment for one or more years may be made at any time by adding to the current year's subscription." Not a bad "consolation scramble" that for "beaten horses"!

The first number of a new series of the *Britannia* magazine, with new illuminated cover, new novels, and original coloured illustrations, has just been issued. The price is one shilling, and Mr. Arthur R. Beckett is still editor.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Mr. Andrew Halliday can write a good short story or a pleasant little play. I don't suppose, from a literary point of view, that he would be more successful with a novel than he was with the "Great City." "Love's Doctor," lately produced at the ROYALTY, is far better than "The Loving Cup" or "Checkmate." The first act is capital, and pleased me as much as any of Mr. Craven's neat domestic plays. The author desires to illustrate the proverb that "no man is a hero to his valet de chambre," and has chosen a pretty story to work it out. A young fool, well educated and well connected, falls in love with the daughter of a drunken dragon, for whose heroism in the Crimea his tipsiness is forgotten; and the simpleton has such a supreme contempt for the conventionalities of society that he would promote his wife from a little back shop to the fashionable drawing-room. So far Mr. Halliday works out his problem very well. The young fellow is a prig, and a fool as well, and of course despises the world for not swallowing his idiosyncrasies. The drunken soldier is a real bit of character—a man who trades on his heroism, gets beer at other people's expense, but still has a kind heart continually breaking the fetters of his immorality. The mother is a genuine, common-sense woman, who desires to see her child advance in life, and dares not trap; and the daughter a good-hearted, unrefined young creature, who is dazzled by kid gloves and gentle birth. But when Mr. Halliday paints the refined gentleman, as a contrast, I think he breaks down. Dr. Lavender does outrageous things. He invites these humble folk down to his Richmond villa in order to insult them by way of punishing his son. He asks all the best-dressed (they are intended, at least, to be so by the author) girls to meet Mrs. Onion and her daughter and laugh at them. Finally, he spouts Tennyson's "Charge of the Light Brigade," as a gross and impudent sarcasm on the hero's ineptitude. To tell the truth, the gentlefolk are far greater snobs than the shopkeepers, and I don't wonder at Mrs. Onion being anxious to marry her daughter away from the society of such miserable people. And then, of course, these faults become more glaring from the unfortunate selection of the actors. With Mr. Hare for the polished old Doctor, and Mr. Montague or Mr. Mr. Coghlan for the son, Mr. Halliday's strong colouring might have been moderated. But when I tell you, Sir, that Mr. Danvers was the fashionable young man, with his finicking and very juvenile University notions, it will be seen at once that the contrast must utterly break down. Mr. Danvers is a very useful actor in his way; but he should play Champagne Charley, not "Young Oxford." He can't look the part, and he couldn't look it if Madame Rachel had operated upon him for months. Mr. Vernon was only a trifle better, but he was nothing like the polished and refined medical man. On the other side of the picture all was different. Miss Oliver in grey hair for the first time in her life, admirably illustrated the shrewd, business-like *dame du comptoir*. Mr. Dewar is particularly to be congratulated on his tipsy hero. There were sarcastic touches in the impersonation quite as good as anything Mr. Dewar has ever done; and most playgoers will agree with me that Mr. Dewar in his time has done many good things. Miss Kate Bishop played an interesting character very prettily; and Mr. Elton might have been far worse as a snivelling, amorous working man. Miss Saunders gave another of her extremely clever caricatures; and Miss Adair alone looked the character of a young lady. Her friends, with their *outre* costumes and ridiculous short dresses, were merely copies of the vulgar-looking girl who illustrates "The Grecian Bend" on the back of the song. I am sorry to see that Miss Oliver announces her last season at the Royalty.

There are frequent heart-burnings in the dramatic profession. Miss Montmorency, who comes on in a crowd, is jealous of Miss Dedar, who lays a cloth, and speaks one line. Miss Stanley, in the front row of the ballet, dies with envy, because Miss Cambridge has a pas seul. The carpenter thinks he is as good as the super, the super the utility gentleman, and so on. Just as it is impossible to touch pitch, and keep your hands clean, so it is unusual to find

the most subordinate theatrical employé who does not dream that he has within him undeveloped genius. Well, Mr. Hollingshead has given his budding Kemble and Niabets a chance. The other morning he gave up his theatre to anyone who chose to act, and I am bound to own that on the whole the pseudo-amateurs did not make such a very bad job of it. I did not notice much genius, but I saw signs of honest industry, and there is no doubt that the GAETY rank and file are considerably above the average. Miss Wallace, Miss Apsey, and Miss Gresham will all be of use; but I would advise the gentlemen to hesitate before they unsettle themselves for life. The forgotten Gaiety gentlemen cannot hold a candle to the forgotten Gaiety ladies.

Mrs. Pitt has produced at the SURREY an agreeable domestic drama in which the fair lessee and Mr. John Murray play the principal characters. The author is Mr. Harry Pitt. The Surrey pantomime is still in full swing; and, lavishly mounted as it is, remains one of the best this year.

Two of Mr. Craven's plays will shortly be produced—one at the HAYMARKET, and the other at the GLOBE.

Mrs. Lafontaine Erskine is giving a literary and musical entertainment and readings at the QUEEN'S CONCERT ROOMS, Hanover-square, of which report speaks favourably; but I have not yet had an opportunity of hearing the lady myself. Some evening soon, perhaps, I shall be present, and then you shall know what I think of the performance.

THE INDELIBILITY OF HOLY ORDERS.

The following memorial has been addressed to Mr. Gladstone by gentlemen who have taken orders in the Church of England. In one or two cases the signatures are qualified by some slight alteration in the memorial:—

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE W. E. GLADSTONE, M.P., FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY.

The undersigned beg respectfully to lay before the Prime Minister the following circumstances, in the hope that the attention which he always gives to just claims and grievances may be accorded to the prayer of their memorial.

The undersigned think that persons who have been ordained to the ministry of the English Establishment are aggrieved, since in case they wish to retire from that ministry they are prevented from doing so by the force of existing laws, and from the general impression that the Legislature has declared that holy orders, from a civil point of view, are indeleble.

They submit that these disabilities are mainly due to the following legislation, civil and ecclesiastical:—

1. The 7th canon, which provides that no man being admitted a deacon or minister shall from thenceforth voluntarily relinquish the same, nor afterwards use himself in the course of his life as a layman, upon pain of excommunication.

2. The Statute of 41 Geo. III., c. 63 (1801), which declares and enacts that no person having been ordained to the office of priest or deacon is or shall be capable of being elected to serve in Parliament as a member of the House of Commons.

3. 5 Will. IV., c. 76, s. 28, excluding "persons in holy orders" from municipal offices.

With regard to the Act of 1801, the undersigned beg to call attention to the fact that it was avowedly passed to overrule former constitutional precedents, and to exclude a particular clergyman, who was obnoxious to the Government of the day, but who had long resigned his office, from the House of Commons. Apart from grounds of public policy and natural justice, they hold that the circumstances under which the Act was passed are a strong argument for its repeal. It may be added, too, that at that time little or no alteration was shown to those who did not conform to the Establishment, while at present religious opinion is no bar to civil office, except in case of a clergyman.

The undersigned beg further to call attention to the law as laid down by the Court of Queen's Bench in the case of "Barnes v. Shore," in 1846:—

"A person cannot divest himself of the character of a priest in holy orders, with which he has been clothed by the authority of the Church of England, when he was ordained by one of her bishops, and when he vowed and promised canonical obedience to that Church; from that character and that vow and promise he can be released only by the same authority which conferred the one and enjoined the other."

And the undersigned submit that there is no mode of release from canonical jurisdiction.

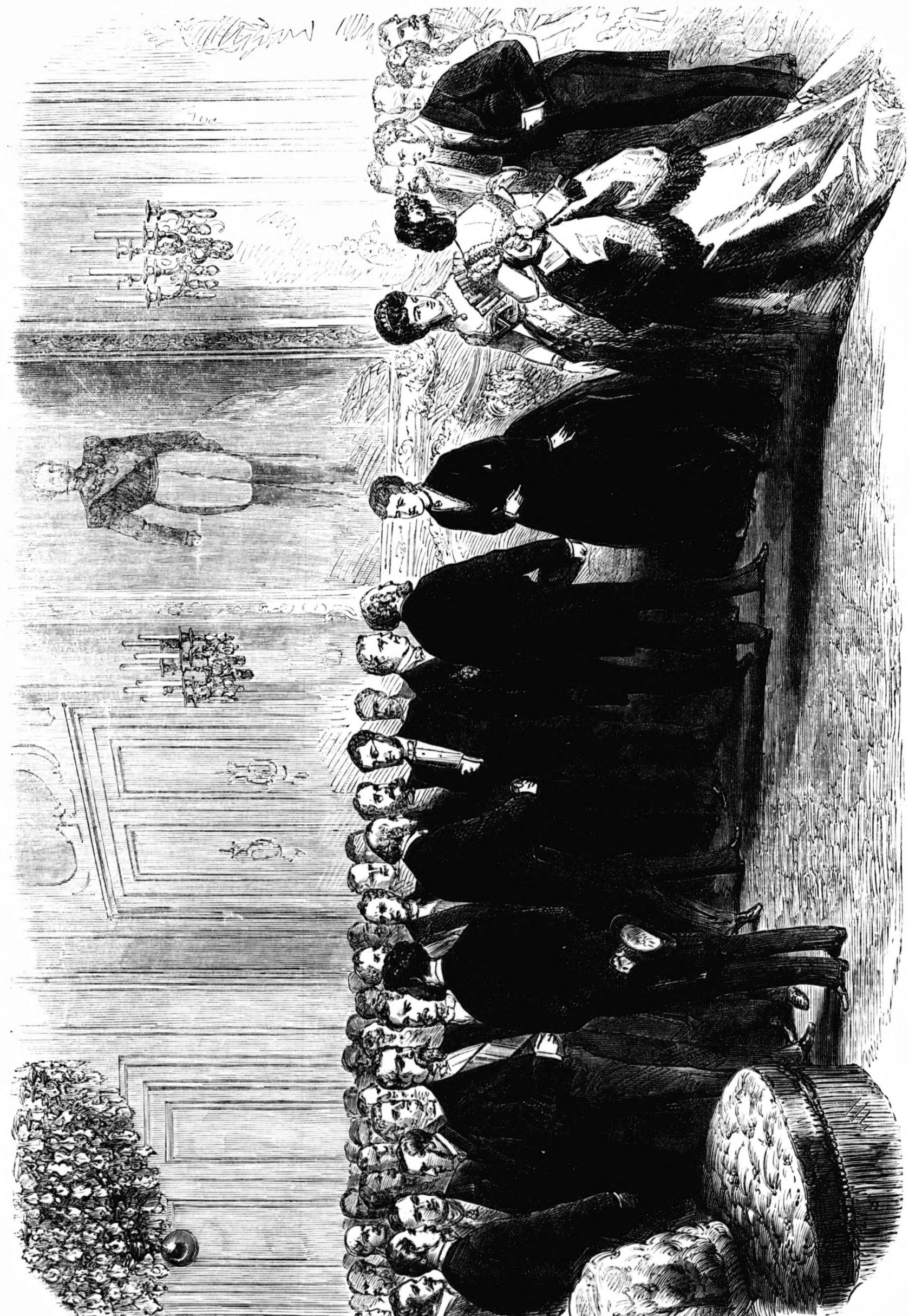
It also appears to the undersigned that it is exceedingly injurious to the Church that a hindrance is put in the way of those who wish to retire from its ministry, whether they are disinclined to accept its form of government, or its relation to the State, or its dogmatic teaching; or whether, from any change in the circumstances of their lives, they are no longer able conscientiously to discharge the duties of their office. They contend that it is in the interests of religion and conscience that those who are unwilling to continue in the ministry of the Establishment should be permitted to resign their office without even being called upon to assign their reasons. They also think it impolitic, in the interests both of the Church and of the public, that any class of the community should consider itself bound by law to an irrevocable calling. The mischievous effects of this principle may be seen in the growing reluctance of the younger members of our Universities to take orders supposed to be irrevocable.

The undersigned therefore submit that there is no remedy for these grievances except by the absolute removal of all disabilities whatsoever on all clergymen who are not engaged in the active discharge of clerical duties; and they think that (as the existing law was the act of a Government) legislation with a view to this object should be the part of the policy of a Liberal Administration. They therefore humbly pray that a bill may at once be submitted to Parliament by the Government, which shall do away with all disabilities which affect any of her Majesty's subjects by reason of their calling or profession.

(Signed)

J. F. Hopkins, Trin. Hall, Cam.
Edward Carpenter, Trin. Hall, Cam.
Thomas Fowler, Linc. Coll., Oxford.
James Greenwood.
J. S. Brewer, King's Coll., Lond.
Wm. George Clarke, Trin. Coll., Cam.
N. M. Ferrers, Gonville and Caius, Cam.
James Porter, St. Peter's Coll., Cam.
Coates Trotter, Trin. Coll., Cam.
Wm. Bennett Pike, Downing Coll., Cam.
E. W. Blore, Trin. Coll., Cam.
Wm. A. Gunson, Christ's Coll., Cam.
A. A. J. Munro, Trin. Coll., Cam.
J. Wolstenholme, Christ's Coll., Cam.
J. Venn, Caius Coll., Cam.
W. C. Sidgwick, Merton Coll., Oxford.
Leslie Stephen, Trin. Hall, Cam.
Sedley Taylor, Trin. Coll., Cam.
Wm. Ogle, C. C. C., Oxford.
J. A. Froude.
B. Jowett, Ball. Coll., Oxford.
W. T. Marriott.
Archer Clive.
F. H. Lascles.
S. W. Kitchin, Ch. Ch.
Edwin Hatch, St. M. Hall, Oxford.
D. P. Chase, Oriel Coll., Oxford.
James E. Th. Rogers.
W. L. Collett, Oriel Coll., Oxford.
Leonard Sedgwick, Jesus Coll., Cam.
Chas. Bigg, Ch. Ch.
Joseph Wood, St. John's, Oxford.
S. J. Hulme, Wadham Coll., Oxford.
Alfred Watson, Brasenose Coll., Oxford.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.—The Bishop of London has appointed six following gentlemen to preach in St. Paul's Cathedral on Sunday mornings during the month of February:—Sunday, Feb. 6, the Rev. William Charles Fynes Webber, M.A. of Christ Church, Oxford, Vicar of St. Botolph, Aldersgate; Sunday, Feb. 13, the Rev. John Bradley Dyne, D.D., of Wadham College, Oxford, Head Master of Highgate Grammar School; Sunday, Feb. 20, the Rev. Derwent Coleridge, M.A., of St. John's College, Cambridge, Rector of Hanwell; Sunday, Feb. 27th, the Rev. Thomas Griffith, M.A., of St. John's College, Cambridge, Minister of Ram's Chapel, Hammersmith. The Rev. Robert Gregory, M.A., will be the Canon in residence, and will preach at the afternoon services. The following gentleman will be the preachers at the special evening services under the dome for the present month:—Feb. 6, the Right Rev. Dr. Harvey Goodwin, Bishop of Carlisle; Feb. 13, the Rev. Dr. Hessey, Head Master of Merchant Taylors' School; Feb. 20, the Rev. J. Ellison, M.A., Vicar of Windsor; Feb. 27, the Very Rev. Dr. H. L. Manel, Dean of St. Paul's.



RECEPTION BY THE NEW FRENCH MINISTERS AT THE HOUSE OF M. OLLIVIER.

MINISTERIAL RECEPTIONS IN PARIS.

SINCE their accession to office the members of the Ollivier Ministry have given a series of receptions, the most important of which are those of the Premier himself. On one of these occasions much excitement was caused by the presence of the veteran Parliamentarian, M. Odilon Barrot, who not only came in person to pay his respects to the head of the new constitutional Ministry, but greeted him in the most cordial and even affectionate manner. At these réunions, which are attended by all the leading friends of Parliamentary government in Paris, Madame Ollivier plays a prominent part, and, it is said, does her husband "yeoman service" by her frank, winning, and courteous demeanour. One of these Ministerial receptions is depicted in our Engraving.

THE READING LESSON.

THOSE first reading-lessons—how the memory of them starts up sometimes, and brings a hot flush to our faces, a dimness to our eyes, in later years, when we thought we had forgotten all the early days! We have had other "first lessons"

since, lessons that were hard to learn, that brought shame as we tried to read them in the light of conscience, and gave us many a pain which we would gladly have avoided if we could have had our way; but those easinesses upon lines and loving precepts upon precepts that fall like lightest snow down on the child's heart as it nestles near the maternal bosom, are the alpha and omega of learning. With such lessons we must begin, with such a childlike spirit we should end, or our strife for knowledge has availed us little.

There is something not only of a pleasantly suggestive, but of a refining influence in the picture from which our illustration is taken, the accessories being introduced with the taste which is characteristic of all the productions of the same artist.

SUFFRAGAN BISHOPS.

WITHIN the last few days there have been announced the appointments of Archdeacon Mackenzie as "Suffragan" Bishop of Nottingham, and that of Archdeacon Parry as "Suffragan" Bishop of Dover—the first instances of such appointments having been made in England for upwards of two centuries. It is, however, quite a mistake to suppose—as many of our contemporaries have done—that there have been no such "Suffragan" or coadjutor Bishops nominated since the Reformation. On the contrary, it was at the very commencement of the Reformation in England that the Act of the Legislature was passed under which such "Suffragan" sees as those now filled up were proposed to be erected; and it was under the auspices of Cranmer and the other reforming prelates that legislation on the subject was taken in hand. By the Act known as 26 Henry VIII., chap. 14, no less than twenty-five Suffragan Sees were proposed to be erected; and for the following list of them we are indebted to Mr. Mackenzie Walcott's learned "Dictionary of Sacred Archaeology" — viz., "Cambridge, Hull, Gloucester, Taunton, Shafesbury, Bedford, Bristol, Berwick, St. Germans, Thetford, Ipswich, Grantham, Huntingdon, Southampton, Guildford, Leicester, Nottingham, Marlborough, Dover, Shrewsbury, Penrith, Molton, Bridgnorth, Colchester, and the Isle of Wight." Nor was this Act of the Legislature wholly inoperative, although in process of time it fell into desuetude. The following sees, according to Mr. Walcott, were actually occupied by Suffragan Bishops during the periods included in the dates affixed severally to their names:—Taunton (in the diocese of Bath and Wells), 1538-9; Shafesbury (in the diocese of Salisbury), 1537-8; Marlborough (in the same diocese), 1537-40; Bristol (then in the diocese of Worcester), in 1538; Dover (in the archdiocese of Canterbury), in 1537-58, and again in 1569-97; Bedf ord (in the diocese of Lincoln), in 1537-60; Shrewsbury (in the diocese of Lichfield), in 1537; Ipswich (in the diocese of Norwich), in 1536; Thetford (in the diocese of Norwich), in 1536-70; Colchester (then in the diocese of London), in 1536, and again in 1592-1607; Hull (in the archdiocese of York), in 1551-2, and again in 1553-79; Berwick (in the diocese of Durham), in 1536-70; Penrith (in the diocese of Carlisle), in 1537-9; and Nottingham (then in the archdiocese of York), in 1567-70. Since that time, as our readers are aware, Bristol has been erected into a permanent Bishopric, with a diocese carved out of Worcester, much as, long before that time, Ely had been carved out of Lincoln, and Carlisle out of Durham; and much, we may add, as within our day the dioceses of Ripon and Manchester have been taken out of the dioceses of York and of Chester. The term "Suffragan," which is derived from the Latin *Suffragium*, we may here remark, originally denoted any diocesan prelate who had the right of voting (*suffragandi*) in a provincial synod, or at the election of a Metropolitan.

And hence the Bishops of London, Winchester, Oxford, Exeter, &c., are called "Suffragans," in respect of the Metropolitan see of Canterbury. The term, however, henceforth will no doubt become more familiar to our ears in the sense of a coadjutor Bishop, who will be a Suffragan towards his immediate superior, just as the diocesan Bishop is a Suffragan to his Metropolitan. It may not be generally known that in the early part of the present century an Act of Parliament was passed—we believe in 1812—for the purpose of reviving the order of Suffragan Bishops in Ireland; and it is strange that such a measure (though it was never carried out in act) should have been sanctioned by the Imperial Legislature only twenty years before the late Lord Derby, then Mr. E. G. Stanley, carried his measure for suppressing, or rather sweeping away, nearly half of the existing Episcopate in Ireland. The idea of a Suffragan Bishop, however, is not a novelty among the colonial bench: thus, Dr. Henry Parry last year was consecrated as a "Suffragan" Bishop to his father, the Bishop of Barbadoes; and Dr. Kelly, a year or so previously, was consecrated "Coadjutor" or "Suffragan" under Dr. Field, the Bishop of Newfoundland; and Dr. Mountain, the present Bishop of Quebec,

weekly, but they were not as stiff-backed or broad-shouldered as the Dorsetshire labourer, who earned, it was said, only 9s. weekly. Professor Buckman delivered a long address on the subject, rebutting several of the statements contained in Mr. Stanhope's report. He held that the Dorsetshire labourer was as well, if not better, qualified for work than the labourer of another county in England. And was it possible, he asked, that the labourer could do his work on a shilling a day? The Professor expressed his disbelief of the statement that his earnings were only nine shillings weekly. The general fault of the Dorset labourer was, he said, a peculiar jealousy of his brother workmen. A sort of trades unions were formed, and the best work was not offered for the best price, but wages were kept on a level. There was great immorality, too, among the labourers, and the superstition prevailing was somewhat alarming. Farmers taught their sons, for instance, that if a mouse happened to creep over a cow it would be the cause of a great number of maladies. The great remedy for this was, he considered, education—instruction in the common things of life; and it was important that science and other schools should be established in the county. He denied that in

Dorset, as a rule, men did the work of boys; he thought that, with few exceptions, it was just the contrary. Regarding the Dorset cottages, he disbelieved the statement that they were worse than those in other parts of the country. Generally speaking, they were, he thought, better considerably—they were snug and cosy. A great fault was the indolence of labourers, who would not mend their cottages at the cost of a few pence often, except they were paid for the same. In the matter of mortaring and whitewashing the Dorset labourer was, he held, as imbecile as possible. The landlord had no encouragement to improve the cottages, so indifferent were the labourers in keeping them tidy. Then, again, the rent, often a shilling per week, did not warrant his expending money in repairs; and as he had disproportionate burdens in the shape of taxes to bear, it was not likely that he would thus spend his money. He thought the cottages should be made twice as good as they were at present, and that they should be doubled in rent. Sanitary matters should receive attention by the appointment of parish supervisors. Regarding wages, he recommended the total abolition of the system of payment in kind. Better cottages, better schools, and parish supervision were, he considered, three great wants in respect to improving the condition of the agricultural labourer. Mr. John Floyer, M.P., pointed out that sanitary matters had received the attention of boards of guardians, who had effected great improvements in the parishes. Regarding the state of the cottages, he thought the Agricultural Society did much towards their improvement by their system of offering prizes for the best cottages. If any age was fixed for prohibiting the working of boys in the field, under ten years he thought to be suitable; up to that age they should receive the best education possible. Improved cottage accommodation was, he considered, only a question of time; at no distant day the labourers of the county would, he believed, be housed as they ought to be.



"THE READING-LESSON."—(PICTURE BY TOULMOUCHE. ENGRAVED BY PERMISSION OF MESSRS. GOUPIL.)

General Michel and other county gentlemen followed, expressing similar views.

THE AGRICULTURAL LABOURER IN DORSET.

HOW PROTECTION WORKS IN AMERICA.

EVERY "family man" will appreciate the very considerable item which appears in his annual expenses for shoes and boots. These articles, which used to be so remarkably cheap in the United States, have become peculiarly dear. The cause is the old burden-taxation. It can be demonstrated by an examination of the various elements that enter into the composition of this manufacture that the whole nation pays a tax of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent on the aggregate cost of all the boots and shoes manufactured for men and boys, and as much more on all manufactured for women and girls. The whole value of this trade is estimated by Commissioner Wells, on the best authority, at 228,250,000 dols., and this petty tax will reach the very respectable sum of more than 15,000,000 dols., or some 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on the whole annual savings of the nation. Is it any wonder that "the poor grow poorer" under such taxation? This is not all. There are produced through the country some 47,000,000 pairs of women's and children's shoes per annum. Of these about 15,000,000 pairs, which are worn by poor as well as rich, are made up in part of woollen materials, called "lasting" and "serge." The import of these materials is estimated in value at 3,480,000 dols. The duties on them amount, in currency, to some 1,542,000 dols., which increased price is paid by the women, poor and rich, of the country—for what? Not, certainly, for "protection," for there are only one or two small factories in Massachusetts with a few hands, that pro-

we believe, was a "Suffragan" for some years before he succeeded to the see which he now holds.—*Daily News*.

General Michel and other county gentlemen followed, expressing similar views.

duce them. Not for revenue, for this small amount could be easily spared. As Mr. Wells rather dryly puts it, "The Government, to all intents and purposes, in addition to all its other business, has become a partner in the lasting and serge business, and runs one or two small establishments at an expense to the people of 1,500,000 dols. per annum—a sum greater than is at present annually required to defray the expenditures of the whole foreign intercourse of the industry!" But even this is not all the burden on this country. Our readers are familiar with a very convenient element in light shoes, "elastics," or a rubber webbing. For some inscrutable reason this innocent material is heavily taxed from 35 to 60 per cent *ad valorem*. The result is a tax of 5c. on every pair of shoes with elastic sides, and the further consequence that the cheap American gaiter, which used to be exported so much to the southern portion of our continent, is now left at home. These enormous burdens on a single industrial branch have not benefited the workmen in it. These get lower wages and find less work in the year after than before the laying on of the tariff. The taxes eat out the means of every individual. What, then, is their object? Is it for revenue? But they fail in this. Thus, the value of the whole product of leather in the United States for 1868 was about 124,000,000 dols. The duties imposed on all the materials which entered into its composition raised its cost from 8 to 10 per cent, or to some 10,000,000 dols., for the whole people. The receipts of the Treasury from duties on undressed hides and skins, animal oils, and tanning material were not more than 2,500,000 dols. So that each one of our readers in any way using or purchasing leather paid a useless tax of 7 dols. 50 cents for every 2 dols. 50 cents he paid into the Treasury. Are those duties, then, for "protection"? But our cattle have never produced more than 70 per cent of the hides we require; and before the war we always exported tanned leather, even to England. Our advantages for the business are such that our tanners never needed protection. The great expense in manufacturing leather is not labour, but material and machinery, and in these we were beyond competition. At this time the very unpleasant spectacle is seen of hides and skins imported from South America to New York, carried across this country in bond, tanned in Canada, and then exported to England. So much for the effects of inconsiderate taxation on one important branch of industry.—*New York Times.*

MANCHESTER AND MR. GLADSTONE'S GOVERNMENT.

A PUBLIC meeting of the members and friends of the National Reform Union, in support of Mr. Gladstone's Government, was held on Tuesday evening, in the Free-Trade Hall. The meeting took the form of a great public demonstration, and so crowded was the large hall that from two to three thousand persons were turned away from the doors. To accommodate those who could not gain admission to the hall, a second meeting was held in a smaller room, and speakers selected to address them. Deputations from branches of the National Reform Union in 145 towns were present on the occasion. The chair was taken by George Wilson, Esq., president of the union, and the following members of Parliament were on the platform:—Sir Thomas Bazley, Bart.; Jacob Bright, Esq.; R. N. Philips, Esq.; Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart.; Peter Rylands, Esq.; John Platt, Esq.; Edmund Potter, Esq.; E. M. Richards, Esq.; A. Johnston, Esq.; A. Illingworth, Esq.; Thos. Whitworth, Esq.; John Holmes, Esq.; and T. B. Potter, Esq. To prevent confusion, the public were admitted to the Free-Trade Hall by means of red, green, and white tickets, the colour representing different entrances.

Mr. George Wilson, on rising to address the immense assemblage, was loudly cheered. He expressed unshaken confidence in Mr. Gladstone's Government, and he looked for an Irish Land Bill and an Education Bill in the forthcoming Session of Parliament. Nothing, the chairman said, was more costly than ignorance, and nothing would return a better profit than education. He thought the depression of trade was largely owing to our excessive national expenditure.

Sir Thomas Bazley, M.P., said he believed the object of the Conservatives in talking of reciprocity was to disturb the good feeling which prevailed in favour of the Government. But all their efforts would fail. The manufacturers in France and their workpeople did not number two millions, and it was sought to tax twenty-eight millions for their profit. Those in favour of the reciprocity movement in England were much fewer than the number in France. There were not half a million of people engaged in the silk trade in this country; and would twenty-nine or thirty millions of English people consent to be taxed for the benefit of half a million who had not the enterprise, the energy, and the industry to rescue their trade from competition with a rival neighbour? With respect to Ireland, the first thing to be done was to repay the great farming interests everything that had been spent by the farmers in improving the landlords' property. There must be a settled system of holding land. He thought that the dredging of the rivers would promote the drainage of the land. The weak should be protected, and not left to depend on the favour of the strong. As soon as unlimited justice was done to Ireland, he believed it would become a prosperous and contented portion of the United Kingdom. The hon. member concluded by moving the following resolution:—"That this meeting has witnessed with great satisfaction the conduct of her Majesty's Government during the past Session, especially in regard to the grievance of the Irish Church, and desires to express the fullest confidence in Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues, believing that they are resolved to amend the Irish land laws, to promote the trade of the country by reducing taxation, to abolish the exclusive restrictions of the Universities, to improve the licensing system, to introduce a measure that shall ensure education to every child in the land, and to give freedom to the voter by adopting the ballot; and the meeting further pledges itself to render every possible support to the Government in the carrying out of these and other measures having for their object the peace and prosperity of the nation."

Mr. Jacob Bright, M.P., seconded the resolution. He reviewed the state of things before and since the passing of the last Reform Bill, and said he believed that, for the future, the House of Commons would legislate according to the reason of the people, and not wait to be coerced. The present state of the representation was not satisfactory. The franchise should be given to those occupying less than £15 houses outside boroughs, and to women householders. The ballot was required to rescue the voters from political highwaymen. The hustings must be abolished, and the cost of polling-booths should be borne by the local rates. He hoped that the Liberals of Manchester would hold another meeting twelve months hence under quite as favourable auspices.

Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart., M.P., said the hands of the Government would need to be strengthened by such meetings as that if they were to carry out the programme contained in the resolution.

Mr. John Platt, M.P., said previous Governments had been Liberal in name; this was so in reality.

Messrs. J. B. Torr, A. Illingworth, M.P., and Henry Rawson also supported the resolution, which was passed with enthusiasm.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

A WONDERFUL CALCULATOR.—John Alexander, post-runner between Nairn and Cawdor, has proved himself to be one of the most astonishing mental calculators, perhaps, in the kingdom. As a specimen of his powers he gave the correct answers to the five following questions in less than a minute, in presence of Mr. William Raitt, Free Church Institution, Nairn, the other day:—"Two chests of tea, each 80 lb., at 3s. 6d.; twelve bars of brown soap, each 3½ lb., at 4d.; seventeen bars of white soap, each 4 lb., at 4d.; three bags of sago, each 27 lb., at 4d.; and seven bags of barley, each 19 lb., at 1d." He answered the following question correctly, without noting down a single figure, and that, too, in a few seconds:—"Find the amount of £500, from March 1 to Jan. 3, both days inclusive, at 4 per cent. Answer, £519 19s. 1d. 6d. 73." He was asked by Mr. Raitt how many letters there would be in a year's file of a daily newspaper of eight pages, each seven columns, each 190 lines, each forty-two letters? The answer, 139,873,440 was given in a few seconds.—*Elgin Courant.*

THE POST-OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

The following official notice was issued on Monday by the Postmaster-General:—

On Saturday, the 5th inst., the transfer of the property of the telegraph companies to the Postmaster-General will have been completed, and on and from that day the conduct of telegraph business within the United Kingdom will be undertaken by the Post Office. A list of the postal telegraph offices, which will on that day be opened to the public, will be ready for exhibition to the public on that day at all post-offices in the United Kingdom. The postal telegraphic system will be extended as rapidly as circumstances will permit, and due notice will be given from month to month of the opening of additional offices. A list of the railway stations from which the railway companies have undertaken to transmit messages for the public on account of the Post Office, will also be ready for exhibition at all post-offices in the United Kingdom. On the morning of the 5th inst., commencing at eight o'clock, and thenceforward, the charge for the transmission of an inland message—that is, of a message going from one part of the United Kingdom to another part of the United Kingdom—will be uniformly, and without regard to distance, 1s. for the first twenty words, exclusive of the address, for which no charge will be made, and 3d. for each additional five words or part of five words. The message-forms provided for the use of those who wish to transmit inland messages will be of two kinds—namely, forms with a 1s. stamp embossed thereon, and forms without any such stamp embossed thereon. Both kinds of form may be obtained at the postal telegraph-offices, and the unstamped forms may be obtained at the railway stations from which the railway companies will transmit messages on account of the Post Office. The forms with the 1s. stamp embossed thereon will be sold in books of fifty forms, price £2 10s., or will be sold singly, or in such numbers less than fifty as may be convenient to the purchaser. That portion of the message-forms on which the message is to be written is divided into ten lines, and each line is divided into five spaces. It is very desirable that but one word should be written in each space, the first five words of a message being written on the five spaces of the first line, the second five words in the five spaces of the second line, and so on. This arrangement has been devised with the view of assisting the public and the department in counting the number of words in the message, and thereby saving time in its transmission. If the public will write their messages in the manner thus prescribed, they will perceive at a glance that the charge for a message which does not reach beyond the first four lines will be 1s.; that if the message reaches the fifth line the charge will be 1s. 3d.; that if it reaches the sixth line the charge will be 1s. 6d., and so on. The message-forms thus prepared will admit of fifty words being written on them in the prescribed manner, and very few inland messages exceed fifty words. If, however, anyone desires to send a message in excess of fifty words, he can write the additional words on a separate piece of paper, and attach that separate piece of paper to the message form. The payment of 1s. for a message not exceeding twenty words covers the delivery of that message by special foot-messenger within the limits of one mile from the terminal telegraph-office—that is, within the limit of one mile from the office to which it is sent by wire or tube—or within the limit of the postal delivery of that office, when it is a head office, although the town postal delivery may extend for more than a mile from it. Anyone who desires to send a message not exceeding twenty words by telegraph, to be delivered within the above-described limits, will, if he writes it on a message-form "A 1," have no further charge to pay than the shilling which he has paid for the same message-form. If, however, he writes it on a message-form "A," which has no stamp embossed on it, he will have to pay 1s. for the transmission, and will be expected to pay that charge by affixing a postage-stamp or postage-stamps to the value of 1s. to the message-form. The entire charges for words in excess of the minimum number of twenty words allowed to a single message, and the entire charges for portage, when any portage has to be paid, are also, as far as possible, to be prepaid by means of a postage-stamp or stamps affixed to the message-form. It is desirable that the public should use the smallest number of stamps that will conveniently denote the charges for the transmission of the messages—that is, that they should use a 6d. stamp instead of six penny stamps. They will be at liberty, however, to use for the purpose any of the denominations of postage-stamps in use. When the addressee—that is, the person who is to receive the message—does not reside within the limits above described, and when the sender desires to have his message delivered by special foot messenger, he will have to pay portage at the rate of 6d. per double-mile—that is, a mile out and a mile back—or any part thereof. If the sender desires to have his message delivered beyond the limits of the free delivery by cab, fly, or horse express, he will have to pay 1s. per double-mile for such delivery. Directions on these points are printed on the message-form. If the receiver of the message does not reside within the above-described limits of free delivery, and the sender of the message does not desire to incur the cost of special delivery by special foot messenger or by other means, the message will be sent out for delivery, free of extra charge, by the ordinary postal delivery next following on the arrival of the message at the terminal telegraph office. Messages written on forms A 1 or A may not only be tendered for transmission at postal telegraph offices, but may be inclosed after envelopes addressed "Telegraph Office," and deposited in wall or pillar boxes, or in the letter-boxes of ordinary receiving-houses or sub post-offices. Telegrams so deposited will be sent on to the nearest postal telegraph-office by the first ordinary postal-collection from the letter-box in which they are deposited, and will be sent on by wire from that nearest postal telegraph-office as soon as possible after they reach it, and will be delivered to the addressee free of extra charge, provided the proper charge for the number of words contained in them, and for portage when they have to be delivered beyond the limits of the free delivery, have been prepaid by means of postage-stamps affixed to the message-forms. Messages so deposited, but insufficiently prepaid, will also be sent in like manner, the difference of charge being obtained from the addressee; but messages so deposited without any prepayment whatever, will be placed in a cover, which will be directed to the addressee, and sent forward to him by post as an ordinary unpaid letter. Messages written on the proper forms and properly prepaid by means of postage-stamps affixed to the forms may be handed to rural post messengers who are proceeding to postal telegraph offices for transmission therefrom. Any additional information which the public may require with regard to the charges on and regulations for the transmission of inland messages may be obtained at any postal telegraph office. Messages for the Continent, India, or America will also be collected at and delivered from the postal telegraph offices throughout the United Kingdom, at the rates and under the regulations hitherto charged and maintained by the telegraph companies engaged in the transmission and delivery of such messages. Full information with respect to the charges on and regulations for the transmission of such messages may also be obtained at postal telegraph offices.

MEMORIAL TO BISHOP JEREMY TAYLOR.—The cathedral of Dromore was founded by St. Coleman about the year A.D. 500. It was destroyed in the rebellion of 1641. In 1661 it was rebuilt by the celebrated Jeremy Taylor, when the see of Dromore was held by him in commendam with the united sees of Down and Connor. The communion plate was a present from his wife Joanna, and is still used on sacramental occasions in Dromore Cathedral. Four Bishops are interred in the vault under the chancel (which was built by Bishop Taylor when he rebuilt the church, in 1661)—viz., Jeremy Taylor, ob. 1667; George Rust, ob. 1670; Essex Digby, ob. 1683; and Capel Wiseman, ob. 1695. A few days ago this vault was opened in the course of making some alterations consequent on building a memorial chancel to Bishop Taylor, the remains of the Bishops were found, but the wood of the coffins had entirely disappeared, with the exception of a piece of oak on which it is supposed the coffins had rested. An appeal is now being made to English Churchmen for subscriptions to assist in putting up a memorial chancel to so distinguished an ornament of the Church as Bishop Taylor. Subscriptions will be received by the Rev. Charles Beresford Knox, Rector, or by Mr. J. Harrison, churchwarden, Dromore, County Down.

RECEPTION OF MR. PEABODY'S REMAINS IN AMERICA.—The remains of Mr. Peabody were formally delivered to the United States last Saturday, and transferred from the Monarch to the steamer Leyden. They were then landed and borne by ten British seamen to the funeral car, the band of the Monarch playing a dirge. Captain Commerell, in delivering the remains to Mr. Chamberlain, Governor of Maine, said they were intrusted to his care by Mr. Motley, the United States Minister in London, and that the British Government gave him orders to show in every possible way the respect and admiration felt by the Queen and people of Great Britain for the distinguished philanthropist whose venerated remains Great Britain now parted with, but whose memory would ever be retained and cherished, while the suffering artisan, widow, and orphan on both sides of the Atlantic would henceforth bless the name of Peabody. Mr. Chamberlain replied that the American people gratefully appreciated the national courtesy of Great Britain and the tenderness with which Queen Victoria had restored the venerated remains of Mr. Peabody to his native country. The Monarch, he added, had achieved a greater victory than her guns could ever win. The funeral car, guarded by British marines, and followed by relatives and mourners, by Governor Chamberlain, Captain Commerell, Admiral Farragut, several State and municipal deputations: Mr. Murray, the British Consul; and the officers of the British and American fleets, proceeded to the City Hall, where the body lay in state. The remains were removed on Wednesday from Portland to Peabody, Massachusetts. Bishop Neely offered up prayer at the City Hall, Portland, at nine in the morning. The Germania Orchestra, of Boston, and the Haydn Association then performed dirges and pieces of sacred music, including a chorus from "The Messiah," sung by 300 voices. At noon the funeral cortège formed, consisting of delegations from Congress and State Legislatures, numerous municipalities, officers of the British and American navies, detachments of national and State troops, and officers of several educational establishments endowed by the deceased. The train with the remains left Portland at one p.m., and arrived at Peabody at five p.m., where the body was laid in state at the Peabody Institute. The final ceremonies of the interment will be solemnised on Tuesday next.

A VERY PICTURESQUE PIECE OF EPPING FOREST.—comprising about eighty acres, and known as "Lord's Bushes," has within the last six months been inclosed by the lord of Chigwell Manor. On Saturday last a party of from fifteen to twenty men, authorised by Mr. Edward North Buxton, who resides in the neighbourhood, broke down a portion of the inclosure, reopening an ancient bridle-way which had been obstructed by it, and giving access again to the forest.

MANCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The annual meeting of the Chamber was held on Monday—Mr. J. M. Bennett, the president, in the chair.

The president congratulated the members on the present prospects of trade, which, he said, were much brighter than they were at this time last year. Cotton was no cheaper, nor, perhaps, were we likely to have it cheaper during the present year, or several future years. The consumption of cotton had very much increased during the year; so much so that, although he believed more cotton was grown during the last season all over the world than during any previous season, yet the consumption had gone on in an equal if not greater ratio. When a number of mills now standing were got to work, as was shortly expected, there would be a still greater demand upon the supply of raw material. But he pointed to the goods traffic receipts of the railway companies as a sure index of a revived trade. Cheap corn and cheap money had always been the harbingers of prosperous times for Lancashire. He anticipated that for half a dozen years to come the nominal price of cotton would not be under 1s. per lb., and if this probability were sufficiently appreciated, he believed that confidence throughout the country would be greatly improved. The president went on to notice the recent Convention with China, as to which he repeated the expression of opinion contained in the annual report of the chamber, that it would be well to await the explanations which might be afforded by Sir Rutherford Alcock on his return to this country. After referring to China as a country to which especially we should look for the new markets which our trade required, the president adverted to the opening of the Suez Canal, which he had attended on behalf of this chamber. He had found the canal anything but a failure. It was an accomplished fact of the greatest importance to the commercial interests of this country. A Liverpool shipowner, who had a large number of sailing-vessels, had very recently told him that his sailing-vessels occupied, in the voyage from Liverpool to Bombay, by the Cape of Good Hope, from 90 to 120 days, and a screw-steamer occupied about 60 days; but that a screw-steamer had made the passage by the canal in 35 days. The opening of the canal might possibly increase the competition we should have to meet, because the Mediterranean ports would be brought nearer to the Indian Empire; but he believed that, as we had four-fifths of the trade now, we should be able still to maintain our own.

Sir Thomas Bazley, M.P., moved the adoption of the annual report. With reference to the Suez Canal, he observed that this chamber had been identified with the progress of that undertaking, and he regretted that Lord Palmerston should have opposed the earlier stages of the project. He (Sir Thomas) believed that all the anticipations promulgated with regard to its success would be thoroughly realised. He congratulated the meeting upon the much healthier feeling which now existed in the cotton trade. He hoped that a return of prosperity was before the country; but unless we had a still further increased supply of cotton there would be a very harassing period still to encounter. Fearful losses had been encountered during the period since 1860, amounting, since two years after the termination of the American war, to £250,000,000. With such a vast sum abstracted from the resources of the country during so short a period, was it not clear that every industry beyond the cotton trade had been deprived of the means of purchasing the produce of Lancashire industry? He looked with hope to the future, because we had now no great engagements pressing upon the mercantile and industrial part of the community. A great deal had been said about the French treaty, which he believed had been a great benefit alike to France and to this country; but, while he heard of the necessity of inquiries as to the state of our trade with France under the operation of the French treaty, he wished to call the attention of the members of the chamber to some leading features connected with our exports and manufactures and our imports from other countries. It was complained that we received from France £10,000,000 a year beyond the amount of our exports to that country. If we turned to the United States of America we found that in 1868 we imported from that country £43,000,000, and exported only £24,000,000, making an excess of imports over exports of £19,000,000. From the British colonies the imports amounted to £67,000,000, while we only exported £54,000,000, showing an excess of imports of £13,000,000. To Russia we sent annually only £6,000,000 of exports, while we received £20,000,000, making an excess of imports of £14,000,000. From Egypt we received £17,500,000, and sent only £6,000,000, being a difference of £11,500,000. In order, France stood the sixth upon the list he had made; and while we imported £33,000,000 from France, we exported only £23,000,000, showing a difference of £10,000,000. From China we imported £11,000,000, and we exported to that country only £6,500,000, making a difference of £4,500,000. Now, if there was really to be an inquiry as to the causes of excessive imports in our commercial relations with the whole world, he submitted that it ought not to begin with France. It ought to begin with our own colonies, and we ought to know why they charge us a much higher duty upon cotton manufactures than France itself.

Mr. Platt, M.P., seconded the motion, and added some remarks in condemnation of the "reciprocity" movement. He observed that, supposing the principle to be carried out, and that we were to say to another country "Unless you admit our goods on more reasonable terms we shall tax your raw material in the same way," and suppose such a thing to be attempted with corn, the price would be raised to an enormous extent and great distress would ensue among ourselves. At the same time we should be making it more difficult to produce our manufactures cheaply, for the cheaper the people in this country could be fed the better position were they in for that purpose. So also with cotton. If we said we would tax it unless the Americans would reduce their heavy duties, the effect would simply be to shut up all manufacture in this country, because cotton was not produced here, and the Americans would be able to retaliate upon such a suicidal policy. This was a question which could be argued in many ways, and it could be easily shown that this country derived an immense advantage by having everything produced at the cheapest possible rate and with the best skill. There was no law that other countries should not manufacture. What special Providence was there that England should manufacture and that other countries should not? If they found it to their advantage they would do so, and it was for England to show that it was not for their interest to do so, inasmuch as it could supply them with a better material. They knew how the fostering of home industry in America was likely to have disastrous effects; indeed, it had already. According to the admission of the Hon. Mr. Wells, in his report to the House of Assembly, the fostering of Protection had so raised the price of manufactures produced that they were unsalable out of their own dominion, and the commercial interests of America had been destroyed in a measure by that policy. They had made their own manufactures so dear that it was impossible to exclude English manufactures, and they had effectively destroyed the possibility of a foreign trade for the manufactures of their own country. He did not see why there should have been any question of the propriety of free-trade policy in any form in a country like England, which must live by an extended trade, and he had no hesitation in saying there was no country in the world that might not be brought under the influence of England by means of her trade, for if we could, by the skill and industry of our people, produce a good article at the cheapest rate, all the markets of the world must remain open to us.

The report was adopted, and other members of the chamber addressed the meeting in connection with resolutions of a routine character.

SEATS AND PEWS IN PARISH CHURCHES.

On Wednesday a meeting, convened by the executive council of the London Free and Open Church Association, was held at Freemasons' Hall, for the purpose of considering the propriety of introducing into Parliament, in the forthcoming Session, a bill in reference to the rights of parishioners in their parish churches. In the absence of Lord Wharncliffe, the president of the association, Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. W. E. Sackville-West was called to the chair, and briefly introduced the business.

Mr. Octavius L. Hills said:—One objection which had been made to proceeding in this matter by bill was that it would be better to select some disputed case in reference to pews, and to get a decision upon that point. But his own opinion was that in all respects the introduction of a declaratory bill would be the most advantageous course both for the country and the Church. The bill he proposed had been drawn up by Dr. Swabey, and affirmed in its preamble that whereas, according to the ancient law, the entire area of every parish church in England and Wales is intended for the equal use of all the parishioners, without regard to their degrees or qualities; and whereas, for many years past, the said ancient law has been misinterpreted and disregarded in many parishes and places by a system of appropriation of seats and pews, to the injury of the majority in number, and especially of the poorer classes of the parishioners, and to the great hindrance of religion, it is expedient that ancient law should be declared and enacted, with a view to its future observance. The bill provided that the entire area of every parish church in England and Wales shall be open to all, and that it shall be the duty of Bishops and other ordinaries having authority, and of churchwardens, to see that, so far as the accommodation will allow, all parishioners may equally enjoy the use of the parish church—no seats being allotted, assigned, or appropriated. It was not proposed that the measure should interfere with the letting of seats under the Acts of Parliament commonly known as the "Church Building Acts," or affect any rights to private aisles, chapels, or chantries, which from time immemorial, or from their foundation, have not been used by the parishioners as part of any church, and had been maintained and kept in repair by the owners thereof. He moved that the bill be introduced into Parliament. It would be called "The Parish Churches Act."

The Rev. W. Wallace, Incumbent of St. Luke's, Stepney, seconded the motion.

Mr. H. Trelawny Boodle moved the following amendment:—"That in the opinion of the meeting it is not expedient, at the present stage of the open-church movement, to introduce into Parliament so extensive a measure as the bill prepared and printed as the Parish Churches Act; and that in lieu thereof a bill be introduced with the following objects only, viz.:—To enable the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and, if desired by the promoters, to require them to accept sites for churches the seats in which shall be permanently secured to be free and unappropriated, notwithstanding any provisions in the Church Building Acts, or in any other Act of Parliament, or any existing law or custom to the contrary."

Mr. J. Weston Morris seconded the amendment.

After much discussion, Mr. Boodle's amendment was put from the chair and declared to be lost. Mr. Hill's resolution was then put and carried.

A vote of thanks to the Hon. Colonel Sackville-West for presiding closed the proceedings.

INTERVIEWED.

THE NEW YORK PAPERS are full of the proceedings in connection with Prince Arthur's visit. We take the following from the account which appeared in the *Tribune*:—"Boys with fiddles and harp played their choicest selections, while the younger ones went about soliciting pennies. Negroes, Irishmen, clerks, washerwomen, well-dressed women of doubtful reputation, and politicians of both sexes, asked questions of any one who was willing or able to give the least information concerning the Royal party. The hack-drivers were particularly loquacious, and they improved every opportunity to talk and joke. 'What is the meaning of all this?' exclaimed a new-comer. 'The Prince from Canada is over at the hotel!' 'The Prince of Canada! Who is he? Some big fellow, eh?' 'Prince Arthur from England, Sir.' 'Oh, no! yes, yes, Prince Arthur, a very nice man, I suppose. Some general, is he not?' 'No, the son of Queen Vic—.' 'Oh yes; I know him; he was round here before the war. Right nice chap he was, wasn't he?' The seedy individual addressed sucked a straw, and abstractedly gazed at the windows, occasionally condescending to answer questions when they were not too deep for his whisky-soaked brain. The negroes were fully as much interested as their Irish brethren, and they eagerly listened to all that was said by the well-dressed loungers. The police preserved good order. Reporters darted up the stone steps, and, with their characteristic modesty, approached the desk. A young person, who was said to represent a provincial paper, seemed determined to interview the Prince at all hazards. He button-holed the proprietor, who listened patiently to his questioning. Information was freely imparted; but the host distinctly gave the young man to understand that his services as porter were not needed while the Prince was his guest. Just then the luggage was brought in; whereupon the reporter aforesaid took his stand by the door and commenced taking an inventory of the Royal baggage. First there were three black tin boxes; then a bundle of silk umbrellas with paragon frames. Here the proprietor came up, and again the countryman ventured a seductive smile. A lackey in a long drab coat approached, and the reporter photographed him on the spot. Then more baggage was brought in, and the reporter did not fail to note the splendid material of the sole-leather trunks. There were hat-boxes of every size and shape. The cocked-hats were stowed away in triangular cases, while the numerous shawls and blankets were visible among the scores of packages. When the luggage was properly numbered the person with a drab coat and wooden spine managed to stoop low enough to reach the handles of a 50-dollar valise and carry it up to his Highness's chamber. Here another reporter arrived, and, for the seventeenth time, the landlord was obliged to 'take the stand.' Those who have never been present at a cross-examination between a reporter and his victim should attentively read the following:—Question: 'What time did he arrive?' Answer: 'At one o'clock.' 'Did you receive him?' 'Yes, Sir.' 'Where?' 'Yonder, on the pavement.' 'What did he say? What did you say?' (By this time the victim wiped his face.) 'What were your first impressions on taking the Royal hand? Did Minister Thornton lead the way? How many are there of the party? When will the Prince leave the city? Will he visit Central Park? You gave him your best parlour, did you not? I suppose you engaged a squad of French cooks for this occasion? Say, look here, you want a good notice? You shall have it. I will give you a quarter of a column. And the editors, I know, will speak well of your noble generosity. I have it. You let me act as porter; I can carry baggage and answer the bell. My uncle had a hotel in Milwaukee. I will give you 50 dolls., a puff, and the promise of an editorial, if you will grant me this slight favour.' Answer.—'My dear Sir, I cannot possibly do it. The idea is a good one, and I think you would carry out the programme splendidly, but I cannot think of it. I will aid you in anything else if I can.' Question: 'Who said grace at the table? Did the Prince have a gold napkin-ring? Did he put salt in his soup? Who was the master of the ceremonies? What is the name of your head waiter? Does the Prince chew tobacco? How many courses?' Here the poor man was sent for by the clerk, and while he was gone the reporter sharpened his pencils and stood waiting for his victim to return."

THOMAS COX, a young man charged with attempting to murder his sweetheart, Julia Ellen Hughes, at St. John's wood, by cutting her throat, was brought before Mr. D'Eyncourt, at the Marylebone Police Court, on Tuesday. The prisoner was able to appear, and her wounds were said to be fatal. The prisoner was committed for trial.

Literature.

The Holy Grail and other Poems. By ALFRED TENNYSON, D.C.L., Poet Laureate. London: A. Strahan and Co.

We have more than once referred to this great gift of the new year from a great poet; and though we could not hope to review it in anything like an adequate manner in the space at our disposal, we must again refer to it for at least one other purpose. Those who have not already procured for themselves the complete series of the "Idylls of the King"—the nearest approach to a national epic which we yet possess—have an additional reason for doing so in the fact that we are now informed that the poem is an allegory as well as a story. Looked at in this light, it contains matter for so much curious study that to borrow it from a library would not be enough; it must be bought and kept if it is to be really scrutinised on this theory; which is understood to be acquiesced in by the Poet Laureate himself.

One writer says that everywhere in the poem the struggle "between the spirit and the flesh" is represented. This we certainly cannot make out; and we are only sorry to see how this Oriental figure, founded on the Oriental notion of the essential impurity of all matter, keeps intruding into places where it is alien. Read in its proper place, and with its proper associations, it conveys true ideas; but, imported into Western thought as something more than a figure, it has caused, and still causes, endless confusion. What the use made of it has to answer for in the corruption of morals in the West is a large question, on which some of us have very strong opinions. When we compare the sweet, childlike purity of the ancient literature of the north of Europe—before this technicality of the East was (as far as possible) naturalised—with subsequent literature; when we compare a loathsome stroke of nastiness like the Parson's Tale in Chaucer, or even the Confessions of St. Augustine, with the Sagas; when we trace, nauseated as we go, the endless cycle of asceticism and debauchery laxity in which, both in Europe and America, hundreds of otherwise beautiful and grand movements have now for many melancholy centuries been moving, and are still moving; when we note, even in good literature, how people, who really appear to be otherwise sane, keep on quoting this alien and (apart from a certain scheme of metaphysics) utterly barren and unnatural antithesis, as if it were a talisman, we may well grieve and wonder that any able man should think it a fine idea to "work" that antithesis in a modern poem. Admitting it, however, what on earth does Sir Galahad stand for?

But, stated differently, the allegory of the poem is this:—Arthur, the King, is Conscience; the three Queens are Faith, Hope, and Charity; the Lady of the Lake gives the sword of Justice, Excalibur; Merlin is Wisdom; the Knights are the Passions. What Guinevere is we are not told. Somebody or other says she is "the flesh;" but there are so many people to represent this unlucky "flesh" that we can keep Guinevere to stand, if we please, for Beauty (wedded to Law).

Now, this sort of work is absolutely endless. At the time the four first "Idylls" appeared we well remember in this journal suggesting a ground-plan of the kind, but by no means to be formally dealt with as a basis of allegory. The question which is well worth the attention of ingenious readers is whether or not the story does not suffer from the presence of an allegorical scheme. In the first place, what can we make of the King himself? Can Conscience, the governor, ever be an unsuspecting gentleman like Arthur? If a man appears "high, self-contained, and passionate," and is bent on a Round-Table, has he any business with a wife like Guinevere, in whom it is natural, wholesome, yea, and most just and good, to prefer a husband of the type of Launcelot? Treating the King merely as a man, Mr. Maurice, at the time the first Idylls appeared, dropped a hint upon the subject in *Macmillan*. It is not possible for the King, as simply human, to carry all our sympathies with him; nor does he. Then, again, take the central episode of Launcelot and Guinevere. The essence of this Mr. Tennyson preserves; and he also postulates chivalry, its spirit, and its regimen; while, at the same time, the Arthurian ideal, we know, must have proved unworkable under such conditions; so that here, again, some of our sympathy slips away, half unconsciously to ourselves. On the one hand, we bitterly resent the treachery of Launcelot and Guinevere, and feel that only the minor morals and regimen of the chivalric time can make it endurable in any set of heroic conceptions. On the other hand, we find the general feeling of the poem alien to its historic postulates. Not to make a loathsome fraud intolerable, the poet preserves all the palliations of the ancient story, and then the effect is that we not only feel for the guilty couple, we actually resent their being entrapped by (or at least in) a scheme in which they are out of place. The difficulties culminate in the magnificent idyll of "Guinevere," where the repentant Queen declares that it was her duty to have loved the highest. We have seen this objected to before, and we have never read an answer to the criticism. The Queen had at first taken Launcelot for the King, and had fallen in love with him. The customs of her age handed her over to Arthur like a chattel. Then comes her treachery. When she repents, she says that Arthur was higher than Launcelot, and she was bound to love the highest. But suppose she had married Launcelot and then seen Arthur, would she still have been bound to love the highest? Mr. Tennyson would decidedly say not with conjugal love, and so will the reader. Yet it was in that sense that the word was used, and we defy human ingenuity to undo the knot which results. In spite of the height and beauty of the conception and the splendour of the work, we feel that there is something wrong at the very kernel of the poem, even taking it simply as a story; but when we are asked to believe (and, indeed, the case seems made out) in a definite allegory, the "original sin" of the construction takes on far deeper colours.

Mr. Tennyson once complained "in a metre of Catullus" of "irresponsible, indolent reviewers." Reviewers are not all "indolent," and they are responsible to the same powers, divine and human, as Mr. Tennyson himself; only, they have not his rewards and consolations. When we look at the "Lucretius" in this volume, at the new "Northern Farmer," and at those portions, happily so considerable that we can forget in their perfect beauty and force) this "allegory," we are tempted to wish allegories and profound intentions in poetry at the bottom of the sea; just as we do in reading Dante, Spenser, Milton, and sometimes even in Bunyan. *He*, however, is saved by his utter naïveté and artlessness. Mr. Tennyson is the most consummate of living artists in words, and a jarring note goes fast and far in poetry like his. Are we presumptuous in saying that in the great speech of the King to Guinevere there are touches of inartistic self-consciousness and intrusions of opinion which break the pathos and the story, and that the same holds good of the King's speech to his knights, on their return from the sacred quest? If any of our readers have not considered these questions at all, they will find much help from some papers in "Guesses at Truth," relating to Wordsworth's unhappy "emendation" in "Laodamia," and to some passages in Byron—and, strange to say, in Shakespeare. Finer criticism than that of Julius Hare on these matters does not exist in this language—or in any other.

We merely throw out all this for discussion. A volume so full of poetic splendour and exhilarating spiritual suggestion, to say nothing of the humour of the new "Farmer" and the profound dramatic insight of "Lucretius," can well afford to be discussed. The gratitude one feels for such a gift will stand a good deal of criticism and the poet remains as great as ever.

Lest any one should say that our use here of the word "spiritual" implies the very antithesis we have condemned, we remark that it does nothing of the kind—namely, it does not imply that the two things are posited in necessary and everlasting moral contrast. Nor are they. Whoever treats them as if they were, is logically compelled to find his home either in religious asceticism or religious communism. So long as the antithesis is maintained, any medium

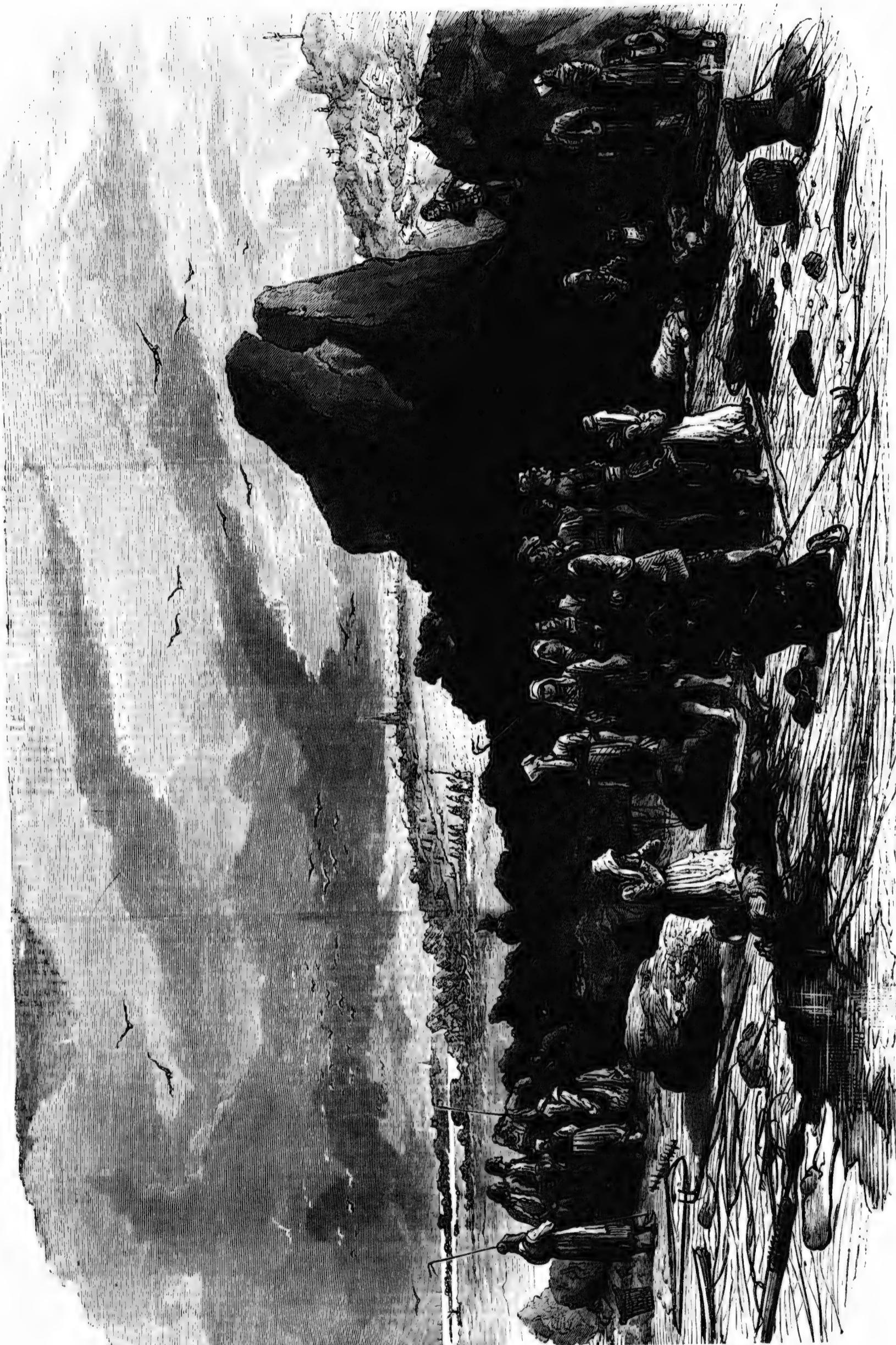
The World of Anecdote: An Accumulation of Facts, Incidents, and Illustrations, Historical and Biographical, from Books and Times Recent and Remote. By EDWIN PAXTON HOOD, Author of "Lamps, Pitchers, and Trumpets," &c. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

A good teller of good stories is a decided acquisition in any company, particularly nowadays, when the art of conversation is not so much nor so successfully cultivated as it was once. He may enliven a dull party; and, by relating an apt and well-timed incident, draw people out, and suggest trains of talk that may be both entertaining and profitable. But from your mere habitual anecdote-monger, kind fate deliver us! for he is generally a dreadful bore, with his stereotyped and usually quite *mal-adropus* exclamation, "Ah! that reminds me," and so on, when in reality nothing that has been said has the remotest connection with the dull, prosy harangue he incontinently proceeds to inflict upon his neighbours—if they be complaisant enough to listen to him. Yes; while we rejoice exceedingly in the society of the skilful story-teller, we heartily abominate the prosy anecdote-monger; and in Mr. Paxton Hood we fancy we can detect traces of both characters. He is a diligent collector of anecdotes; but he is rather faulty as a story-teller. That is to say, he has been more laborious in collecting his materials together than happy in his way of dealing with them. He has ransacked many books, and made a huge mass of extracts (only a portion of which are given in this volume, and yet it is a portly one too); but he has not deemed it necessary to edit his extracts. He gives them literally and verbally as he found them; and the consequence is, that he often includes words and phrases that were, no doubt, quite natural in connection with the context of the passages whence they are taken, but which are quite superfluous in an extract. We could quote numerous instances of what we mean, but one or two will suffice. On page 506 an anecdote of the founder of Methodism begins:—"Wesley's humour, however, enhanced the blandness of his piety," &c.; on page 508 we have another good story opening thus:—"A north country drover had, however, a more tangible opportunity," &c. In neither case had what preceded anything whatever to do with the point of the story about to be narrated. Why, then, should "however" have been retained? and what idea does the use of the comparative form, "had a more tangible opportunity" convey, when there is nothing to compare with? But, frequently as "however" crops up in this way, its retention is not the worst fault Mr. Hood falls into. On page 501 an extract from the *Edictive Review* on Scottish humour begins thus:—"He must have tolerable hardihood who can maintain that theory with the names of Burns, Scott, and Galt, &c., before him." Now, what theory is alluded to? Could not the editor have just made a slight alteration so as to indicate that the reviewer was referring to the cockney notion that the Scots have neither wit nor humour in them, instead of leaving the reader to infer that fact from the specimens that follow? Again, on p. 509, we read, "There was one person rather conspicuous at tent preachers in the south country in these times, named Jamie Scott," &c. What times? Why not have inserted a date to let us know the era? Once more, on p. 495, an anecdote about "a prudent old gentleman" commences with "An incident well known in Lombard-street is in point." In point to what? To nothing whatever that has gone before; and therefore that sentence is quite superfluous, the story that follows being complete without it; the only connection we can see being that the anecdote is about a banker, and bankers congregate much in Lombard-street. We dare say that Mr. Hood will tell us that he did not feel at liberty to alter his originals; but a change that merely omits superfluous words, and renders an illustration readily intelligible, is not a wrong, but a service, to an author when his works are subjected to the extracting process; and if no such alterations of phrases (that in no way mar meanings) are to be permitted in a collection of anecdotes, what is the use of an editor? At all events, an editor who acts on the rule Mr. Hood seems to have laid down for himself, can claim small merit in his work, which a mere transcriber could have done as well. Apart from this matter of editorship, however, we have here a very good collection of anecdotes, by a study of which a man who knows how to tell a story, and where to tell it, may furnish himself with an excellent stock of perfectly unobjectionable, and often very amusing, materials for after-dinner talk. But we hope the book will not fall into the hands of anyone belonging to the genus anecdote-monger, to whom we have already referred, for he will be sure to misuse his knowledge shamefully. To all who draw upon the stores here offered, we would give this advice—that, eschewing Mr. Hood's over-scrupulous rule as to literal transcription, to boldly omit, in repeating the anecdotes, superfluous words and extraneous matter, and so add both point and force to the narrative.

Heirs of the Soil. By MRS. LORENZO N. NUNN. London and Dublin: Moffat and Co.

Here is a "hop, skip, and jump" sort of story, in which, despite its excellence, the skip will be likely to predominate with many readers. But there is a story in it, and that of fair average interest, although not very new, and seems principally designed as a peg whereupon to hang the writer's political opinions. Mrs. Nunn is a Protestant, and does not believe that any Irishman feels at "peace" because of the Church disestablishment, whilst all in the north are necessarily more than ever embittered with their Roman Catholic opponents and the Government which has played so desperate a game for base party purposes. For the land, Mrs. Nunn clearly thinks that every farmer's notion is that he ought to have, and is going to have, the land as he holds it for nothing. No rent—no taxes; nothing but succession in his own family, free of duty. These are Mrs. Nunn's opinions—not ours; and we prefer to say nothing about them in this particular column. The story of "Heirs of the Soil" is painful enough—the principal materials woven together being eviction, the workhouse, and the so-called "agrarian outrages," which phrase seems to be the modern Celtic for brutal murders. The State of Ireland—no precise spot being indicated—in 1847 is sketched in bold style with appallingly gloomy colours. The savage agent of Mr. Ormsby, an absentee, evicts the McCarthy family, who have held the place for ages, and comes to a literal siege of another farm, with troops and constabulary and a stipendiary magistrate, in order to get rid of the McGivres, the old man of the family dying at the termination of the struggle. Young McCarthy goes to the United States, and returns as a wealthy Federal officer to drill Fenians; but he abandons the cause when he sees what wretched the Fenians are and how he has been deceived, buys up his father's old farm, and marries the love of his boyhood. Some midnight Fenian meetings are described with great spirit, and the scene where some adventurous young ladies find themselves amongst the insurgents is at once romantic and probable. In more select society there is May Langley, engaged from childhood to marry her cousin, young Ormsby. But this gentleman is a tyrant to his tenants, and May "will none of him." However, the tyrant proves a gentleman. He accidentally discovers that his large estates really belong to his dearest friend and cousin, Hugh Dudley, to whom he at once discloses the fact, and makes up a marriage between the rightful landlord and May, which everybody has seen to be most desirable from the commencement. He himself, poor fellow, is shot dead the next morning. Although there is the happiness of marriages to end with, we repeat that this is a melancholy story; but it contains such good pictures of Irish life and so many varieties of character and opinion that it ought to secure a patient perusal from all who, whether or not agreeing with the writer, are not above hearing free discussion and taking advantage of the good which, however little, is always gained from hearing the other side.

SHREWSBURY AND WOLVERHAMPTON are contending for the honour of selection as the site of the Royal Agricultural Society's meeting, 1871. Public meetings are being held, and subscription lists are open in Shropshire and Staffordshire in furtherance of the respective claims of the counties.



RECOVERY OF THE BODIES OF PERSONS DROWNED IN THE WRECK OF THE GORGON, NEAR THE FISHING VILLAGE OF CONQUET, FINISTERRE.



INCIDENTS OF THE STRIKE AT CREUSOT: EXPLOSION AT A COAL-MINE.

THE RECENT TROUBLES AT CREUSOT.

WORK has been resumed throughout M. Schneider's establishment at Creusot. Seventy men have been dismissed for habitual neglect of regulations. All the Lancers have left Creusot, and three battalions of infantry were to leave on Tuesday morning, two battalions remaining there for the present.

Creusot occupies the lower part of a narrow valley between Autun and the Central Canal. Its old name was Creux, but the

workpeople themselves changed it to that by which it is now known. In 1782 a bed of coal was discovered there; and as that fuel was then beginning to be appreciated at its true value, a company was formed to work the mine, with the view of establishing foundries for casting the iron for which the district was already famous, and works for fabricating crystal from the granitic sand found in the locality. Louis XVI., the Royal locksmith, was interested in the first industry, and Marie Antoinette in the second, so

that the place began with high patronage, whatever that may have been worth. The Creusot of to-day, however, is far more extended than could have been anticipated by its first founders, its own natural advantages and the enormous demands for its productions effecting what no Royal patronage could have achieved for it. In 1837, when the industrial colony passed into the hands of Messrs. Schneider, the town contained 3000 inhabitants only, and it now numbers 25,000. Creusot then produced



TROOPS IN OCCUPATION OF THE WORKSHOPS.

20,000 tons of cast iron, it now produces 130,000 tons a year—that is to say, it requires 130 vessels of 1000 tons each to transport the manufactures of the place. No locomotives were then manufactured there; now two a week are produced. These figures will suffice to show what rapid strides have been made in this great workshop of Europe, with its army of operatives, who themselves form its population. The coal-mine which originally gave fame to the place is still worked. At the pits of St. Pierre and St. Paul the principal yield is obtained. There are other mines at Montchanin, on the banks of the canal at Decize, and La Nievre; while there is a rich iron-mine at Mazenay, whence the iron is brought by railway to Creusot. Other iron-mines in Soane-et-Loire, the famous workings of the Isle of Elba, and that of Bône, in Algeria, also send their yields to this great workshop of France, where there are coke-foundries, engineering-works, and all the appurtenances connected with the enormous industry there represented.

If the aspect of the place has changed, the appearance of the people has changed no less, for instead of a weak and depressed agricultural population they are a vigorous, well-fed, and even to some extent educated race. The arrangements of the whole colony are remarkable for their completeness, and the thorough organisation causes wonder as to the reasons for a strike. There are schools, hospitals, libraries, crèches (or cradle homes for infants whose mothers are employed in workshops), savings banks, loan offices, benefit societies, and co-operative stores, according to the latest improvements. The town has been reconstructed, decorated, planted with trees, and admirably lighted. A visitor might regard it as a model of successful provision for the wants of the people, who carry on the industry by which they gain their bread. Doubtless these advantages, and their effects upon the men themselves, prevented the dreaded catastrophe of an attack upon the troops who were sent to preserve order.

Our Engravings represent the troops in occupation of the factories and an explosion at the mine of Découvert de la Croix, from which the people were in the act of surreptitiously removing coal. Several severe injuries were sustained, but we believe no lives were lost.

WRECK OF THE GORGONE COMING ASHORE AT FINISTERRE.

THOSE who have read Victor Hugo's "Toilers of the Sea" may imagine the scene of which our Engraving is a representation. That bleak and desolate coast of France which projects into the Atlantic, with Quimper, Brest, and Morlaix as its principal towns, may well realise to the visitor who seeks its shore in winter the impression of the wildest description of the novelist. It is here that the bodies of those who perished in the wreck of the *Gorgone* have been thrown up by the sea on the coast between Saint Mathieu and Labert. On the latter point the remains of the purser of the ill-fated vessel were discovered, the marks on the clothes alone proving the identity; the rest of the bodies were covered only with rags, which gave no token by which they could be recognised. It was probably owing to the low tide that ten days elapsed before these dreadful evidences of the wreck were recovered and the scene was an appalling one to the stranger unaccustomed to the wild figures on that wild margin of the sea. Altogether, during three or four days, seven bodies have been cast ashore at Laber-il-Dut, Beniquet, Illien, and Conquet; but only two could be identified. They have been interred in the cemeteries of the villages where they were recovered.

THE NEW CAB REGULATIONS.

THE following are the terms of hiring cabs which came into force on Tuesday:—

Hiring to be by distance, unless at commencement expressed to be by time.
BY DISTANCE.
No fare less than 1s. For every mile completed, or for any portion of a mile, the sum exhibited on flag as the rate per mile. Driver not compelled to drive more than six miles.

Waiting: For every period of fifteen minutes completed (whether by one stoppage or by several), one fourth of the sum exhibited on flag as the rate per hour if cab hired by time. For any lesser period no charge.

BY TIME.

For one hour or less than one hour, or above one hour, the sum exhibited on flag as rate per hour. For every period of fifteen minutes, or for any lesser period, one fourth of the sum exhibited on flag as rate per hour. Driver not compelled to drive more than one hour.

WHETHER BY DISTANCE OR BY TIME.

Luggage: For each package carried outside, an extra charge of 2d. Extra Persons: For each person above two an extra charge for the whole journey of 6d. For each child under ten, being such extra person, 3d. Remote Discharge: If hackney carriage discharged at a distance exceeding four miles (by radius) from Charing-cross, an extra charge in respect of such excess—viz., for every completed mile of such excess, or for any portion of a mile of such excess, the sum exhibited on flag at the rate per mile. Two children under ten to count as one person.

It will be observed that all the minor charges are fixed, either absolutely or by reference to the rate by distance or the rate by time. These rates are, in respect of each cab, the rates determined by the proprietor previous to the issue of the license, and are exhibited on the metal flag attached to the cab. The rates may be changed at the discretion of the proprietor, provided that such change be notified a fortnight beforehand to the Commissioner of Police and indorsed by such Commissioner on the license, and a corresponding change made, with his authority, in the figures on the flag. Penalties are provided in case of any charges being made in excess of the rates exhibited on the flag, or of any unauthorised change in the figures on the flag.

A WINDFALL FOR MR. LOWE.—According to the *Troy Times* of the 15th ult., Mr. Lowe must have had a lucky windfall of which we were not aware, and which ought to make him a little tender with the taxpayers who are behindhand with their payments in this unpleasant financial year. It is stated in that journal that Miss Gray, a milliner of Fort Edward, has become the fortunate heiress of 19,000,000 dols., under the following circumstances:—She was engaged to be married to a young Englishman, who, on his return to England, like too many others, proved inconstant, and married against his father's will. Whether from remorse at his faithlessness or from some other cause is not known, but, anyhow, he died about a year after his marriage and left all his property to his father. The old gentleman was without heirs, and, not having become reconciled to his daughter-in-law, upon his death left one half of his property to the Government of England, and the remaining half, 19,000,000 dols., to Miss Gray, the Fort Edward milliner. The sum was so large that many people were disposed to doubt the truth of the story when it first appeared in print; but Miss Gray has already received the first instalment of her fortune, a trifle of 5,000,000 dols., from the British Consul in New York.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

ABUSING A SAINT.—A correspondent of the *Vienna Wanderer*, writing from Rome, says:—"One summer morning I entered the church of a small mountain village near Tivoli. Before I had time to commence my study of the pictures my attention was attracted by the extraordinary lamentations of a peasant woman. She stood before an altar dedicated to St. Antony of Padua, and addressed the saint in the wildest and most excited manner. In the midst of tears and sobs, she exclaimed:—'Thou art a cheat, thou art a thief, thou art a villain.' These and still stronger epithets were addressed to a painted wooden figure, which, of course, continued to smile in undisturbed tranquillity, with a white lily in one hand and the infant Jesus in the other. The woman continued:—'I have brought thee candles, I have given thee oil and wine, and yet thou hast permitted my child, the son of a widow, to die. Thou art a villainous cheat.' As I began to be concerned for her sanity, I applied to the priest who was engaged in praying from his breviary. I informed him of what was going on, and was not a little surprised at the answer of the highest spiritual authority of the village. 'Sir,' he replied, 'I will not say that the peasant woman is right in acting as she does, but she is not entirely in the wrong. She really has made St. Antony a number of presents, at some personal inconvenience to herself, for her child is dead. We must allow the poor woman to speak her mind freely, for her complaints are just.'

MUSIC.

HERR JOACHIM'S appearance at the Monday Popular Concerts is always looked for with eagerness. The reason is clear: nobody can play the violin so well as he; and nobody is so perfectly at home with classical music, by whomsoever written. Losing him, the season would lose one of its brightest ornaments, and amateurs one of their greatest favourites. Naturally, therefore, a large audience welcomed Herr Joachim in St. James's Hall, on Saturday last, at one of the morning concerts given from time to time on the Monday Popular model. They greeted him as only those artists are greeted who have made friends of their public, as well as admirers. Among the works played were Beethoven's quintet in C major and Schubert's trio in B flat. With the former Herr Joachim is specially identified. Thousands have heard him play the beautiful melody which twice arrests the course of the presto finale, and few among the thousands have forgotten or will ever forget it. Schubert's trio is another favourite in its degree, though diffuseness and an occasional want of symmetry are drawbacks to its enjoyment by connoisseurs. Herr Pauer was the pianist at this concert. He gave with much good taste and correct expression the well-known sonata in A major of Mozart. The young ladies present, most of whom were, doubtless, familiar with the work, could hardly have missed improving by the lesson Herr Pauer afforded them. Schubert's "Ave Maria" and Tours's "Star's Message" were effectively sung by Miss Blanche Cole, who, as a concert artist, is making rapid way.

The last Saturday Evening Concert was, to all appearance, heartily enjoyed by a large audience. We are glad to find that the success of his enterprise, thus far, has induced Mr. Wood to persevere. Perseverance, in such a case, is the one thing needful. The public are always shy of new schemes, while those most able to pay a remunerative price invariably hang back till success has been attained without them. So it was with the Monday Popular Concerts, and so it must be with all others. Once push the scheme through an inevitable first period of loss, and its safety is secured. The fourth concert was equal to its predecessors. Mr. Leslie's orchestra played Mozart's "Jupiter" symphony in an improved style, and also the overtures to "Semiramide" and "Zanetta." Each was heard with interest, and applauded with vigour. A new lady-violinist, styled Signorina Vittoria de Bono, made a début not altogether satisfactory. She has facility, but wants style and tone. The lady is young, however, and experience may make good her defects. Mr. F. H. Cowen's performance of Mendelssohn's "Rondo Capriccioso" was hurried and not always accurate. We doubt if this young gentleman, whose promise as a composer is so great, will ever make a first-class pianist. The best thing we can wish for him is that he may follow up his symphony in C minor with works as good or better. If he do this, nobody will complain that he neglects pianoforte solos. The vocalists were Miss Helen D'Alton, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Signor Foli. Miss D'Alton was encored in Macfarren's "Gipsy's Home"; Mr. Sims Reeves's songs were all asked for again—without effect; and Signor Foli had to repeat both Reyloff's "Fireside Dreams" and Ascher's "Cavalier's Steed."

At the Popular Concert, in St. James's Hall, on Monday night, the programme led off with Beethoven's quartet in E flat (No. 10), a work little known and less understood. We doubt if even the masterly rendering given it by MM. Joachim, Ries, Straus, and Patti helped the audience to a satisfactory perception of its meaning. But, while there is much in the quartet of an obscure sort, there is a good deal intelligible enough; and this must have been enjoyed to the full, having executants so capable. Another feature of the concert presented what to many was an agreeable contrast. There is no mystery about Beethoven's trio in C minor (Op. 1); rather has it all the clearness of Mozart, upon whose model the work was undoubtedly shaped. Each charming movement was heard with undisguised pleasure—pleasure such as the master's latest style never excites. We wonder at the third Beethoven; the first is loved. Herr Pauer's solo, on this occasion, was Mendelssohn's fantasia in F sharp minor—one of the works identified (for no very obvious reason) with the composer's Scotch tour. That it is full of interest will no more be disputed than that Herr Pauer is an artist competent to do it justice. As his solo, Herr Joachim brought forward the chaconne in D minor of Bach, played by him on several previous occasions. About the music, we have only to say that it is ingeniously adapted to puzzle the most skilful performer. But Herr Joachim was not puzzled. On the contrary, he showed himself thorough master of the enormous difficulties invented by Bach, and played the work throughout with an ease perfectly astounding. Being encored, he gave an "allegro" from one of the same composer's sonatas, in equally brilliant style. Miss Blanche Cole's two songs, "Vedrai carino" and Beethoven's "Penitence," were well executed.

Mr. Henry Leslie gave his first concert for the season on Thursday, in St. James's Hall. Our notice of the performance must be reserved, but it may be said now that the programme was varied and attractive. A novelty under Mr. Leslie's management was the playing, by some well-known artists, of selections from masterpieces of chamber music. The general scheme of these concerts is interesting. Among the works to be performed are Mendelssohn's music to "Antigone," his violin concerto, and also the violin concerto of Beethoven. Both solos will be played on the same evening by Herr Joachim, a unique arrangement, which we hope will be successful. Bach's motet "I wrestle and pray" is in the sacred programme, along with other works of equal interest.

To-day's concert at the Crystal Palace is entirely devoted to Mendelssohn. The programme contains the overture to "Athalie," the psalm "Hear my prayer," two airs from "Elijah" and "St. Paul," and the whole of the "Hymn of Praise."

BELL-ALLEY RAGGED SCHOOL, CITY.—The annual meeting of this school was held, on Monday evening, at Albion Hall, London-wall. William M'Arthur, Esq., M.P., took the chair, and in his speech spoke principally of the advantages of education, and hoped that Mr. Forster's bill would give general satisfaction. The secretary, in his report, said that the total receipts for the past year have been £119 11s. 9d., and the total expenditure £153 16s. 2d., showing a deficiency of £34. This school has been in existence for a period of fourteen years, and is instrumental in educating the poor children of the surrounding neighbourhood. The report was moved by Alderman and Sheriff Sir Joseph Causton, and seconded by the Rev. M. C. Osborn. During the evening the scholars sang several hymns very creditably. The meeting was well attended.

RIMMEL'S VALENTINES.—We suppose it is unnecessary to remind youths and maidens that Feb. 14—the festival of Love's patron saint—is at hand. We dare say they are sufficiently on the *qui vive* already. We may, perhaps, be doing them a service, however, if we mention that the high priest of St. Valentine, Mr. Eugene Rimmel, fully mindful of the season, is to the fore with a varied and tasteful assortment of Cupid's missives, of new designs and elegant execution. Mr. Rimmel has done us the favour of submitting for inspection a few specimens of his stock, and we are happy to be able to say that the valentines for 1870 are in every respect equal—nay, superior—to those of any preceding year. They are as endless in variety of style, design, and sentiment—there being, in fact, something to suit every taste—as they are really artistic in execution. Where diversity is so great and beauty so invariable, it would be at once impossible to particularise each, and invidious to make selections for commendation, more especially as we can honestly praise them all. There is one, however, of which we must make mention. It is entitled, we believe, "An artist's dream of a fair lady" and is, in sooth, fair in every sense, inasmuch as it portrays the head and bust of a lovely girl—a beautiful blue-eyed blonde—framed in silver and lace. Greybeard as we are, we could even yet make a fetish of so beauteous an idol; and the youth who could view that face with indifference must be well, "just as man at a," as the old Laird of Dumbliebykes has it. By the bye, we must not forget another among Mr. Rimmel's collection. This represents a "girl of the period"—pretty, piquant, saucy; with high-heeled boots, looped-up skirts, and glass at eye, she is truly said to be "pro-di-giously" bewitching. But we must not extend the catalogue, else we might speak of posies of violets for "modesty," of moss-roses for "true love," of pansies for "thought," of daisies for "innocence," and so on and so on ad infinitum, which would lead us far beyond the space we can afford, even for so pleasing a theme. We will therefore conclude by asking Mr. Rimmel to do for humour what he has done for sentiment, and give us a series of valentines that shall be comic yet chaste, and so banish the coarse, vulgar abominations that usually do duty as "funny things."

OBITUARY.

THE EX-GRAND DUKE OF TUSCANY.—Within the past few days an ex-Sovereign, John Joseph Ferdinand Charles, who up to the year 1859 reigned as Leopold II., Grand Duke of Tuscany, has departed this life, at the age of seventy-two. The ex-Grand Duke was born at Florence, on Oct. 3, 1797, and was the second son of Ferdinand III., who was driven from Tuscany by the French in 1799, and went to Vienna, whence he removed to Salzburg, at which he was made Bishop by the treaty of Luneville, the see having been secularised for his benefit. At the peace of Presburg, in 1805, he became Grand Duke of Wurzburg, another Bishopric having been secularised to form this sovereignty. Here the young Prince was brought up, and in 1814 returned with his father to his hereditary possessions in Italy. In 1817 he married Princess Mary Anne, daughter of Maximilian, King of Saxony. On June 17, 1824, he was called to the throne, on the decease of his father, and he followed the system of administration which had been introduced by Leopold I., who became Emperor of Germany as Leopold II., and who had rendered Tuscany the most flourishing territory in the Italian peninsula. When, in 1847, a Democratic spirit began to be felt all over Europe, Leopold was one of the most Liberal Princes, and at once granted all material reforms. Progress was, however, too rapid, and at length he fled to Gaeta; and his Ministers, Montanelli and Guerrazzi, were joined with Mazzini in forming a triumvirate, which proposed to unite Tuscany with Rome—then declared a Republic. The victory of the Austrians over Piedmont at Novara enabled them to replace Leopold on the throne; but he then found himself compelled by Austria to govern in a repressive spirit. In 1859 he again fled his territories, and, notwithstanding the peace of Villafranca, which restored them to him in name, he was obliged eventually, after uselessly abdicating in favour of his son, Ferdinand IV., to allow his State to be annexed to Piedmont. Since this period he lived in retirement. He made known his literary taste and ability by publishing, in 1825, a splendid edition of the works of Lorenzo de Medicis, in four volumes folio.

THE BISHOP OF KILMORE.—The Right Rev. Hamilton Verschoyle, Protestant Bishop of the United dioceses of Kilmore, Elphin, and Ardagh, died last Saturday night. The Right Rev. Prelate was the eldest son of the late Mr. John Verschoyle, of Stillorgan House, in the county of Dublin, by Margaret, daughter of the late Mr. J. Stuart, and nephew of the late Dr. James Verschoyle, who was Bishop of Killala about thirty or forty years ago. His Lordship was born in the year 1803, and received his early education at the Grammar School, Oswestry, Shropshire, whence he passed in due course to Trinity College, Dublin, of which he was elected a scholar, taking his Bachelor's degree in 1825, and proceeding M.A. in 1828. In the following year he was ordained, taking the curacy of Newtown-Forbes, in the diocese of Ardagh. In 1835 he was appointed Incumbent of the Episcopal chapel in Upper Bagot-street, Dublin; and, in 1855, was nominated Chancellor of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin. Early in the year 1862 he was promoted to the deanery of Ferns; and in the December following was consecrated to the united sees of Kilmore, Elphin, and Ardagh, on the promotion of Dr. Marcus G. Beresford to the Archiepiscopal See of Armagh and the Primacy of the Irish Church. Dr. Verschoyle was a painstaking and laborious Bishop, but did not take any very active part in the strife of politics or of religious parties. He married, in 1832, Margaret, daughter of the late Very Rev. Dean Hawkins. He was the forty-second Bishop of Kilmore from its original foundation in 1231, the fifty-fourth Bishop of Elphin, and also the fifty-fourth Bishop of Ardagh. The diocese, which was of the annual value of £5000, includes the counties of Roscommon, Longford, Leitrim, and Cavan, with parts of the counties of Sligo, Galway, and Fermanagh; and, as the Bishop, Dr. Verschoyle enjoyed the patronage of between eighty and ninety living.

SIR C. H. DARLING.—The death is announced of Sir Charles Henry Darling, K.C.B., late Governor of Victoria, whose name has been prominently mentioned for some time past in connection with an intended grant by the Legislature of that colony. He was a son of Major-General Sir H. C. Darling, formerly Lieutenant-Governor of Tobago. He was born in 1809, and was educated at Sandhurst. In 1826 he entered the 3rd Foot, and in 1827 he was transferred to the 57th Foot. In 1833 he was appointed Secretary to the Government of Barbadoes, which post he held until 1836, when he was appointed Secretary to the Government of Jamaica. From 1848 to 1852 he was Lieutenant-Governor of St. Lucia, and from 1852 to 1854 Lieutenant-Governor of the Cape of Good Hope. In the last-named year he acted as Governor. From 1857 to 1863 he was Captain-General and Governor of Jamaica, having for two years previously been Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Newfoundland. In 1863 he was appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of Victoria (Australia), and retired in 1866, when he was succeeded by the Hon. H. Manners Sutton, now Viscount Canterbury. Sir C. H. Darling was three times married: first, to a daughter of Mr. Alan Dalzell; second, to a daughter of Mr. J. B. Nurse; and third, to a daughter of Mr. Christopher Saiter, of Stoke Pogis, Buckinghamshire.

THE RAID ON THE GREENWICH HOSPITAL ESTATES.—With the exception of three or four, who could not be identified, the ringleaders in the raid made upon the farm belonging to the Greenwich Hospital at South Newlands, on behalf of the lady calling herself Amelia, Countess of Derwentwater, have been committed for trial by the Northumberland county magistrates. The "Countess" and several of her more active supporters have also had writs served on them to appear to answer actions which have been brought against them by the Admiralty in the Court of Queen's Bench. The "Countess" is reported to be very ill.

CHANGES IN THE PEERAGE.—Until an appointment has been made to the vacant see of St. Asaph the Bishop of Manchester will not be a member of the House of Lords. The diocesans who will be entitled to take their seats at the opening of the Session, on Tuesday next, are the Bishop of Lincoln, on his ceasing to be junior prelate; the Bishop of Winchester, on his translation from Oxford; and the new Bishops of Salisbury, Exeter, Carlisle, and Bath and Wells. Dr. Mackarness, the new Bishop of Oxford, has not yet taken actual possession of his see, and consequently has received no summons to Parliament. Almost as remarkable as the changes in the personnel of the episcopal bench during the recess are those which have taken place in the roll of the temporal peerage. Eight new peers will be entitled to take their seats on creation, viz.:—Barons Acton, Castleton, Greville, Howard, Robartes, Wolverton, and the Earls of Listowel and Southesk as Barons Hare and Baldwin respectively. The following have become peers by right of succession:—The Marquis of Westminster; the Earls of Crawford and Balcarres, Derby, and Kingston; Viscount Canterbury; and Lords Boston, Buckhurst, and Dynevor. Lords Foley and Windsor are minors, and the vacancy in the Irish representative peerage caused by the death of Lord Crofton remains to be filled.

THE IRISH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—The General Assembly of the Irish Presbyterian Church, which has been sitting during the whole of the past week in Belfast, finally adopted, last Saturday, the scheme of commutation and sustentation which they consider best fitted to meet the requirements of the Church under the altered circumstances in which it will be placed when the Irish Church Act takes effect. The Assembly, while leaving ministers at perfect liberty to adopt whatever course they may individually prefer, express approval of commutation in the interests of the Church. The scheme has been matured in a fashion which is likely to secure the assent of all the ministers, and thus secure a considerable augmentation of the funds. It is proposed that the commutation money shall be placed in the hands of trustees, and that the payment of the annuities to the communitants shall form the first charge on the fund thus created. This payment shall be made from the interest of the fund, supplemented by a sustentation fund, to be raised annually with a view of retaining the capital sum intact, for the purpose of permanently endowing the Church. Should the interest of the commutation fund, supplemented by the amount annually raised as a sustentation fund, be insufficient, the trustees will then be obliged to draw on the capital sum for the payment of the annuities. No such deficiency is apprehended, however, and it is even anticipated that there will be no difficulty in annually supplementing the amount accruing from the interest of the commuted fund to such an extent that each minister shall in future receive, independent of local support, a stipend of £100 per annum, in place of the £69 at present received in respect of the Regium Donum. To secure this, and also that the same amount of £100 shall be available for the successors of the present ministers, it is estimated that an annual aggregate contribution of £30,000 to the sustentation fund will be required. The feasibility of the proposal is shown by the calculation that one penny a week from each communicant would raise £27,500 annually.

SHOCKING MURDER IN PARIS.

A SHOCKING murder is reported from Paris, a lady having been killed by her footman, with whom she had had an altercation. The man, who was drunk, went into the dining-room, took a carving knife, and, returning to his mistress, cut her throat with it, the head being nearly severed from the body. Before being arrested he inflicted a severe wound upon a female servant in the house who attempted to disarm him. A terrible incident in connection with this tragedy is that the husband of the murdered lady saw her killed before his eyes, but, being paralytic, was unable to render her any aid.

The following particulars are derived from the French papers:—The murderer is a tall, strongly-built young man, of very gloomy disposition, which, it may be assumed, was in no way brightened by his habitual indulgence in absinthe. He had been drinking that strangely-intoxicating liquor on Friday, Jan. 28, and about five o'clock in the afternoon he had an altercation with his fellow-servant, the cook, Felicie, with whom it would appear he was not on very good terms, "Well, Felicie," said he, "are you satisfied with me? Do you think I have been drinking?" "Why do you ask me such a question?" Felicie replied. "You are not in my service, and I have no right to be satisfied or dissatisfied with you." "Very well," he answered, as he left the kitchen, "I shall go and ask madame if she is satisfied with me." And he went to the room of his mistress, where the shocking tragedy already described took place. The murderer's own account of the crime, when taken before the Commissary of Police, was to the following effect:—

I went into the kitchen and got a large carving-knife. Having lit the lamp, I proceeded to the drawing-room, where I found Madame Lombard working at some tapestry. "Are you satisfied with me?" asked I. "Do you think I have been drinking your wine?" My mistress replied, gently, "Come, come, Francois, what are you talking about? Go and lie down a little; that's all you want." I then rushed on her, and, after a desperate struggle, succeeded in cutting her throat. When asked the motive of his crime, he replied:—"My mistress said I had stolen a bottle of wine and that I was drunk. I could not let such a thing be said about me, and therefore I cut her throat. As for the cook, she was in league with my mistress, to say I was a thief, and she also deserved death."

After he had cut the throat of his mistress he returned to the kitchen, dashing like a maniac into the room with an open knife in his hand, and rushing upon Felicie. She had been somewhat frightened by his peculiar manner previously, and had sent for a little boy, the son of the concierge, to come and stay with her. The piercing cries and screams of the woman and child soon alarmed the house, and the first person to arrive was a young Englishwoman named Mary Marks, a cook in the service of a lady living on another floor. Lethavers, upon entering the kitchen, had locked the door behind him. Mary Marks forced the door, however, and entered the room. The murderer at once left Felicie, set upon the new-comer, and inflicted several very serious injuries upon her with the knife. There is some doubt, indeed, whether she will recover. Felicie also received a severe cut in the hand; but her condition is not considered serious. It was at this point that the murderer rushed from the room. Before he could reach the street he was arrested. It is stated as a remarkable circumstance that, although he acted like a maniac in the struggles above described, he became quite calm and collected upon arriving at the police-station, and asked for water to wash his hands with.

"BANK OF ELEGANCE" NOTES.

At the Middlesex Sessions, on Tuesday, William Johnson, twenty-nine, was indicted for conspiring to defraud Nathaniel Hurst of £50, his money. This was only a new edition of a very old act of swindling, effected by means of the display of a large amount of notes of the Bank of Elegance and Hanoverian sovereigns, and an alleged sudden possession of a large fortune through the death of some wealthy relative. It appeared that, about one o'clock in the afternoon of Jan. 29, the prosecutor, a young sailor, was walking in the Commercial-road, when he was spoken to by a stranger, who assumed the nautical style, and, after a few friendly salutations, they adjourned to the Lord Liverpool to have a glass of grog together; but, rather unpleasantly for the land shark, "Jack" said he did not drink, and, still more extraordinary, did not smoke. Jack was looked upon by Johnson as an odd sort of a fish, and, after a little pressing, he was induced, just for the sake of a little respect, to take a glass of wine with his unknown and generous acquaintance; but prosecutor stated that, as he did not altogether like his manners and appearance, he kept a tolerably smart look-out to see that he did not put anything in it. Matters were thus put on a friendly sort of a footing, and the prisoner revealed to him the extraordinary good luck that he had come into, as a relative had just died, and left him £4600; that he had come from Shoreham to see his lawyer, and to settle his affairs. As an evidence of his good fortune he produced from his pocket what appeared to be a roll of Bank of England notes and sovereigns to a large amount. With this good fortune, he was naturally in good humour with all around him, and at once volunteered to give the prosecutor and another man who came in (of course a perfect stranger to him) gold rings, as a remembrance of him. The prisoner then went out; and when he was gone, the strange gentleman, apparently in perfect sincerity, said, "Well, that is a perfect gentleman, and we will see if we cannot get something out of him." The prisoner was not absent many minutes when he returned, and said to the stranger, in an inquiring tone, "Suppose I was to trust you with my purse, will you return it to me?" to which he readily replied, "Only try me." The prisoner, having considered for a moment or two, said, "Well, I will trust you, and try your honesty," at the same time handing him his purse; and then, taking the arm of the prosecutor, they left the house together. Previous to this, the prisoner, strange man, and prosecutor had all made a large display of the wealth they respectively possessed. The prisoner and prosecutor went a little distance from the house where they had left the strange man, and the prisoner said, "Well, you are an honest fellow; I will make you a handsome present," and immediately handed to him what appeared to be four

sovereigns as a reward for his honesty. The prisoner then addressed the sailor, and said, "Let me hold your purse, and I will do the same with you." But "Jack" was not to be taken aback by this privateering tack, as he at once said, "Not if I know it. Trust you with my purse! You are a stranger to me, and I am not such a fool as that;" but adding apologetically, "Perhaps you will trust me with your purse." The prisoner, with considerable sharpness, replied, "If you won't trust me with your purse, I won't trust you with mine;" but afterwards he began feeling his pockets, and said, "Well, I will trust you," and put it into his pocket. The prosecutor and the other man came outside, when the prosecutor put his hand on his shoulder, and told him that he should give him in charge; but he got away, and ran into the Lord Liverpool. The prisoner then came out and told him to say nothing about it, to give him his purse, and then he ran away. Another man came up and said, "Let the man go; he has taken nothing from you." The prosecutor was not to be moved off his course by these appeals, and he said he would give him seven years if he could. The sailor went in pursuit of the prisoner, and, after chasing him through several streets, ran him down in the George public-house, in the Commercial-road, where he seized hold of him, and told him he should not escape again. He held him fast, and, giving a boy 1s. to fetch a policeman, on his coming he gave him into custody. The prisoner put some frivolous questions in cross-examination, and the jury immediately returned a verdict of "Guilty." Herbert Reeves, warden at Coldbath-fields, said the prisoner had three months' imprisonment in 1860, three months' in 1861, and three years' penal servitude in 1862, in the name of John Warne. He had known him for years as a regular sharper, and as belonging to a notorious gang of thieves in Golden-lane, and he was one of a gang that attempted, some time ago, to rescue a prisoner from the van when leaving the court. Mr. George Lockyer also proved convictions against the prisoner. The Judge said he regretted that he was not able to punish the prisoner as he deserved, as he had not obtained possession of the money. However, he would go to the limit, and that was that he be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for two years, notwithstanding his appeal that he had a young wife and a child a week old, and that when he was taken there was not sixpence in the house. To this the Judge remarked that it was strange, as he said he had just come into the possession of £4600.

POLICE.

ANOTHER ROYAL PERSONAGE.—At the Mansion House, on Monday, a decently-dressed woman, fifty-five years of age, who said her name was Mary Ann Kent, applied to Mr. Oke, the chief clerk, for advice and assistance. On being asked who she was, she stated that she was a daughter of George IV, and a niece of William IV. Her mother, whose maiden name was Kent, died about ten years ago, aged seventy-six. Her father told her she would be the Queen of England, and she had been left a great deal of property, but she had been swindled out of it by lawyers at Portsmouth. There were a number of ships, but they had been sold by the lawyers. She was entitled "to the crown head." Mr. Oke—"Then you claim to be Queen of England?" Applicant—"I am the Queen of England." Mr. Oke asked her if she had any property left. Applicant said she had not. It all went into the revenue of the country. Mr. Oke said she had better apply to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, or the first Lord of the Treasury. Applicant said she had applied to Mr. Gladstone. Mr. Oke told her that the Lord Mayor could do nothing for her. The applicant then left the Court in an indignant manner, exclaiming that as she was the Queen of England she would not beg in the streets.

QUEER WORKHOUSE PRACTICE.—W. Howard was charged at Westminster, on Wednesday, with being disorderly at St. Luke's Workhouse, Chelsea, George Cannon, night porter there, said that defendant came at half-past six last night, with a ticket of admission from the police, but he had been ejected in consequence of his not submitting to the rules of the house by giving up a tobacco-pipe. When he first came in he was asked if he had a pipe, and saying "Yes," gave it up. After that, on his being searched, a short pipe was found on him, wrapped up in a rag. Mr. Arnold—"Am I to understand that if he says he hasn't a pipe, and one is found upon him, he is to be turned into the street. Is that the regulation with a pauper?" Witness—"Yes, Sir. He is asked if he has a pipe, and he ought to give it up." Mr. Arnold—"And failing to do so he is to be turned into the street. What is he to do?" Witness—"I can't say." Mr. Arnold—"If he is destitute he is entitled to relief, and if he does anything against the law he can be punished, but you can't turn him into the street because he does not comply with your regulation. Where is a poor man to go to; what is to become of him? Let the guardians know that if a person is destitute, it is not for you to turn him into the street; it is not lawful." Defendant said that the bowl of a pipe that he did not know of was found upon him. Complainant went on to show that the defendant was disorderly after being turned out, and threatened him. Defendant said he was only trying to obtain shelter for the night. Mr. Arnold discharged him on his own recognisance to keep the peace.

PERSISTENT OMNIBUS NURSING.—At Guildhall, on Tuesday, Charles Bubbers, the driver of one of Mr. Thomas Tilling's omnibuses, plying between Rotherhithe and Gracechurch-street, was summoned before Sir Robert W. Carden for nursing an omnibus belonging to Mr. Morris. Mr. Chipperfield appeared for the complainant. George Morris said that he was the driver of his father's omnibus from Southwark Park to Gracechurch-street. On Wednesday, Jan. 26, he left Southwark Park about twelve o'clock, and while coming towards the City, the defendant's omnibus, belonging to Mr. Tilling, of High-street, Peckham, met him, and turned round, and followed him into the City. The defendant went out of his time, because when he (witness) left the park there was one of Wright's omnibuses on the stand, and the defendant's ought to have come after that. The defendant

drove up close behind him, and followed him until they got into Gracechurch-street. The conductor got off defendant's omnibus and came on to his, and told his conductor that Mr. Farrant, Mr. Tilling's manager, had told him to follow witness wherever he went. When they had put their passengers down witness drove into Bishopsgate-street. Without, round the cab-rank twice, and then up to the police station, followed by the defendant, who waited behind him while the conductor went to get the assistance of the police to shake him off. He then drove on again, and went twice more round the cab-rank, and then to the station again, still followed by the defendant. The conductor was advised to drive on to Worship-street Police Court, and, if the defendant followed him there, to go in and ask for a summons against him. He did follow him, but as there was a great crowd round the court in consequence of the examination about the Finsbury murder, he could not get in. He then drove to Finsbury-circus, and went three times round it, followed by the defendant, and at length he drove into Guildhall-yard, still attended by the defendant. There the conductor came into the court and asked for a summons, and while he was getting it the defendant went away. The defendant said that the complainant had come up the road before him and cleared it of passengers, and then he said to himself that he would follow him wherever he went. Sir R. W. Carden said that the defendant must pay a fine of 20s., and 21s. costs, or go to prison for fourteen days.

THE NEW CAB LAW.—At Lambeth, on Tuesday, John Davis, horse-dealer, Hobart-place, Eaton-square, was summoned by John Allum, a cab-driver, for refusing to pay his fare of 1s. This case raised a question under the new cab regulations, and officials from the several railway stations were in attendance. By the ninth regulation, no hiring except at an authorised standing, with the flag raised, could be recovered, and in the present case the hiring was at Victoria Station, and railways were not "authorised standings." When this summons was applied for the applicant said certain regulations were not to be enforced before Feb. 1, and his cab was hired on Jan. 19. The complainant gave evidence that the defendant hired him on Jan. 19 from Victoria station, and took him to Astley's Theatre. It was between ten and eleven o'clock at night, and he left the fare to him, which the defendant refused to pay, and he had to summon him. The defendant said when he took the cab he asked the driver whether Astley's Theatre would suit him, and he said it would. When he got there the complainant demanded 1s. 6d. as his fare, which he refused to pay. The complainant denied that he demanded 1s. 6d. as his fare. The defendant said he had refused to pay for the reason he had stated. Mr. Elliott told him the summons was for the fare of 1s. from the Victoria station. The defendant said there were new regulations made, under which a fare from a railway station could not be recovered. Mr. Elliott said he could take no notice of regulations unless they were proved. He had seen by the newspaper that the Secretary of State had made some regulations, but he had no proof, and he could not take notice of them unless they were proved before him. The defendant said he had the Act of Parliament. Mr. Elliott said he knew the Act stated that the Secretary of State could make regulations, but before he could take judicial notice of them they must be proved. The defendant said he had the form with him. The magistrate declined to take notice of the form. The regulations had appeared in the newspapers, but before he could take notice of them they must be proved in the regular way. He ordered the defendant to pay 1s. for the fare and 5s. costs and loss of time, making 6s. The money was at once paid.

MEAN SPITE.—At the Guildhall, on Tuesday, Rosa James, a girl aged thirteen, was charged with stealing two cotton frocks and a flannel petticoat, value 7s. Samuel Cohen said he lived at 8, Widegate-street, and was a furniture-dealer. The prisoner had been in his employ twelve months, but she had been in his family five years. He gave her no wages, only 2d. or 3d. now and then for pocket-money. The dresses produced by the officer were his property, and had been taken by the prisoner without his permission. Mrs. Cohen said the prisoner left her house on the 20th ult., and after she was gone she missed the frocks. She gave no information to the police. Mr. Buchanan, who appeared for the defence, said this was a most cruel and malignant prosecution on the part of Cohen, for after he and his family had got the girl's services for nothing for five years, and had ill-treated her during the whole of that time, he had tried to ruin her character by a false charge, for no other reason than that she had left him for a better situation. He called on Miss Caroline Isaacs, 4, Exchange buildings, Cutler-street, Hounds-ditch, who said she took the girl into her service out of compassion, and when she came to her she was bruised from being beaten, and was in a filthy state. As the prosecutor came from the station-house she said to him, "Oh, you cruel man!" and he replied, "Revenge is sweet." Cohen was recalled by Sir Robert Carden, and put side by side with Miss Isaacs. He swore positively that he never made use of those words, while Miss Isaacs was as positive that he did. Sir Robert put a few questions to Cohen, which were answered in such a manner that the Alderman told him he did not believe a word he said. Mrs. Julia Brooks said she lived next door to Cohen and knew that the child was dreadfully ill-treated, and she had frequently taken refuge in her house. She was always kept dirty and scantly clothed. Witness had frequently seen her wearing the two frocks she was charged with stealing, and she had told her that she had scarcely anything else to wear. Sir Robert W. Carden said he should discharge the girl. He wondered Cohen was not ashamed of himself to bring such a trumped-up case into court. However, she seemed to have a kind protector in Miss Isaacs. Sir R. W. Carden then requested Mr. Buchanan to inquire into the case, and if he found there was sufficient evidence to proceed against anyone for ill-using the child to come to the court for a summons against them. He then discharged the girl, and ordered the dresses to be given up to her. The people in court loudly applauded the

THE FATAL ACCIDENT AT TWICKENHAM.—The inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Michael Houerty, a travelling tinker, of Kingston, who was knocked down by a van in the Richmond-road, was resumed, on Wednesday, at the Richmond Infirmary, by Mr. Carter. Some further evidence was adduced, including that of Daniel Winter, a glass-blower, who said that he was in company with the deceased and another man, named Daniel Bryant, on the evening of the accident. Deceased was walking on ahead with his barrow, witness and Bryant being some little distance in the rear. Deceased suddenly shouted out for help; and, on hurrying to the spot, witness saw deceased being removed to Mr. Goodale's. Witness heard no collision, but saw a van pass just before the accident. A number of other witnesses were examined as to the identity of Russell, the driver of the van; and, after the jury had deliberated, Russell was called before the Coroner, who said the jury were unanimously of opinion that he had by some mischance knocked the deceased down, while driving his van. The following verdict was then recorded:—"That the deceased, Michael Houerty, died from injuries received by a collision of a coal-waggon, driven by James Russell, and that the said death was caused accidentally. The jurors are further of opinion that the road in which the accident occurred ought to be more effectively lighted."

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, JAN. 24.

BANKRUPTCY.—T. J. CRABBE, Holloway-road, cordwainer—J. BAKER, Monkwearmouth, upholsterer—R. DAVIDS, Liverpool, linendraper—R. SUFFERS, Consett, innkeeper—H. TOY, Birmingham, brassfounder—D. R. GOODLATT, Cannon-street Hotel, tobacco broker—G. WATERBURY and R. T. NOWELL, Liverpool, salmakers—S. E. and A. HARRIS, Tichbourne-street, woollen warehousemen—J. HOUSTON, Runcorn, pawnbroker's assistant—E. BEATTIE, jun., commission agent—F. CHAPMAN, Merton, brewer—K. CHOOKE, Blackfriars, brewer—R. HOWE, Bradford, suff. merchant—T. PEACOCK, Frodsham, wheelwright.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—W. and F. G. CUZEN, Glasgow, provision merchants—W. MENZIES, Perth, cabinetmaker—J. CHRISTIE, Glasgow, grocer.

TUESDAY, FEB. 1.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—M. A. WRIGHT, Rosebank-road, Coburg New-road, sign-painter.

BANKRUPT.—G. LAWRENCE, Churton-street, Finsbury, jeweller—W. ANTHONY, Aberdare, contractor—J. E. ASHIELL, Granary-brown, upholsterer and auctioneer—W. F. BROWN, Liverpool, quaker, agent and general merchant—P. DUDDINGTON, Peterborough, milliner and dressmaker—E. EDWARDS, Birmingham, grocer—E. HENLEY, Swindon, publican and provision-dealer—J. KING, Collyhurst, near Manchester, oil-refiner—J. KIMBER, Four Posts, Hants, grocer—E. LENNY, Birmingham, wireworker—H. J. LOE, Ryde, builder—T. NELSON, Gateshead, ironfounder—W. H. SMITH, Collyhurst, Manchester, oil-drainer and outfitter.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—J. ROBSON, Greens of Glenboig, Lanarkshire, farmer—C. PURVIS, Glasgow, earthenware manufacturer—W. DODDS, Glasgow, clothier—J. JACK, Ferry Port-on-Craig, grocer.

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